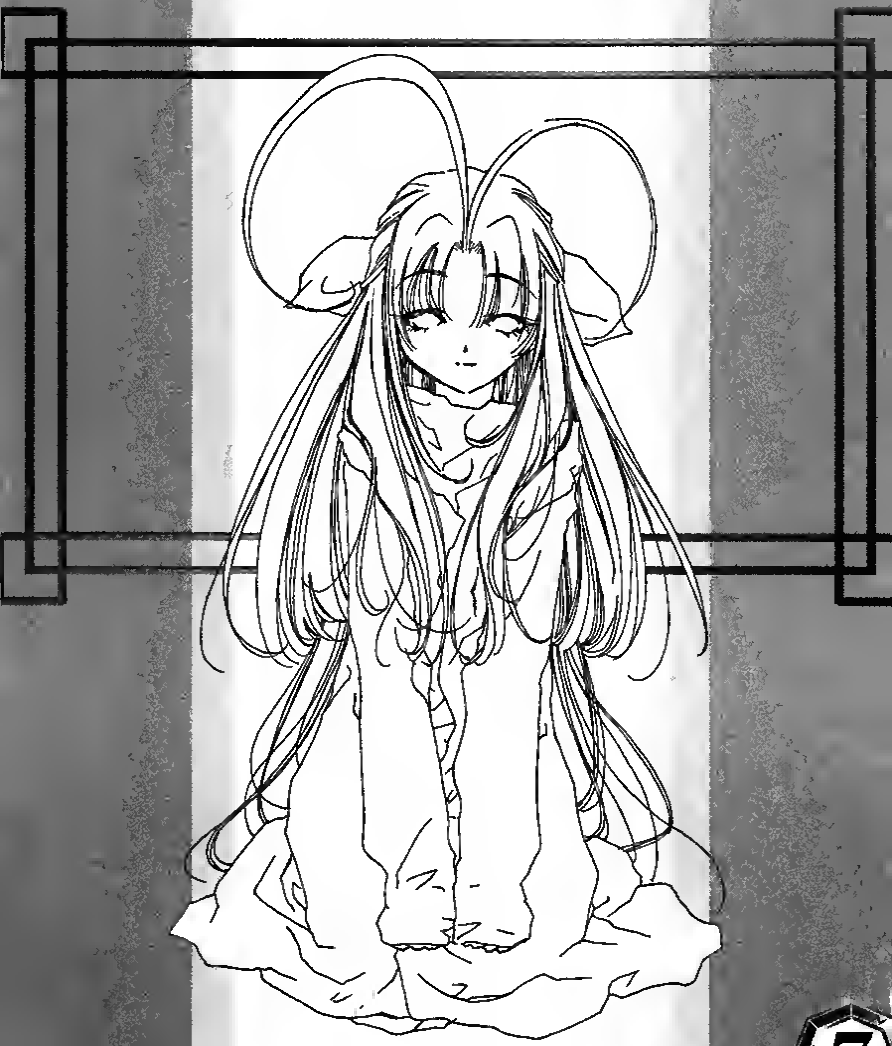
mamotte shugogetten

4

minene sakurano

mamotte shugogetten



Minene Sakurano

7

Mamotte Shugogetten Volume 4
Created by Minene Sakurano

Translation - Beni Axia Conrad
English Adaption - Liz Forbes
Retouch and Lettering - Star Print Brokers
Production Artist - Vince Rivera
Graphic Designer - James Lee

Editor - Hyun Joo Kim
Pre-Production Supervisor - Vicente Rivera, Jr.
Pre-Production Specialist - Lucas Rivera
Managing Editor - Vy Nguyen
Senior Designer - Louis Csontos
Senior Designer - James Lee
Senior Editor - Bryce P. Coleman
Senior Editor - Jenna Winterberg
Associate Publisher - Marco F. Pavia
President and C.O.O. - John Parker
C.E.O. and Chief Creative Officer - Stu Levy

A TOKYOPOP® Manga

TOKYOPOP and are trademarks or registered trademarks of TOKYOPOP Inc

TOKYOPOP Inc
5900 Wilshire Blvd. Suite 2000
Los Angeles, CA 90036

E-mail: info@TOKYOPOP.com
Come visit us online at www.TOKYOPOP.com

© 2003 MINENE SAKURANO All Rights Reserved
First published in Japan in 2003 by MAG Garden Corporation English translation rights arranged with MAG Garden Corporation
English text copyright © 2009 TOKYOPOP Inc.

All rights reserved. No portion of this book may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means without written permission from the copyright holders. This manga is a work of fiction. Any resemblance to actual events or locales or persons, living or dead, is entirely coincidental

ISBN: 978-1-4278-0593-5

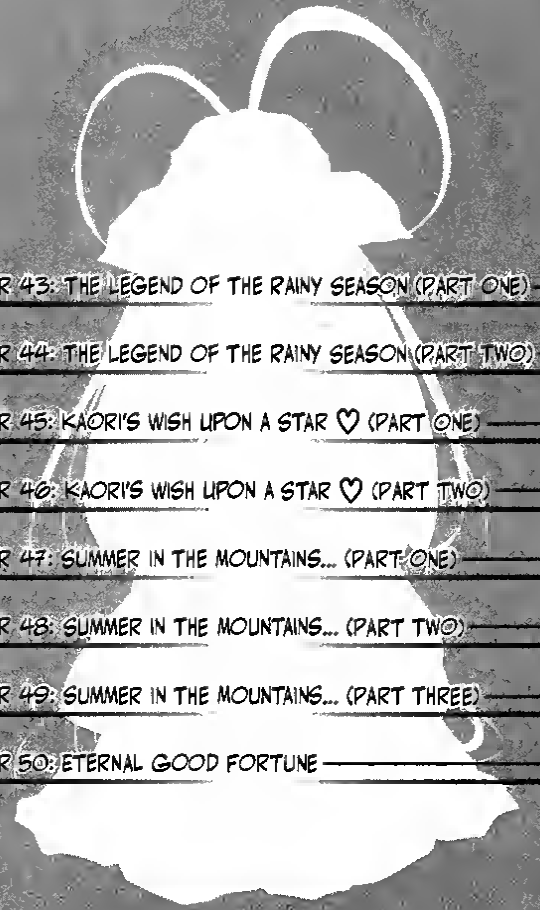
First TOKYOPOP printing: March 2009
10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1
Printed in the USA

mamotte shugogetten

TOKYOPOP®

HAMBURG // LONDON // LOS ANGELES // TOKYO

TABLE OF CONTENTS



CHAPTER 43: THE LEGEND OF THE RAINY SEASON (PART ONE) —— 5

CHAPTER 44: THE LEGEND OF THE RAINY SEASON (PART TWO) —— 27

CHAPTER 45: KAORI'S WISH UPON A STAR ♡ (PART ONE) —— 51

CHAPTER 46: KAORI'S WISH UPON A STAR ♡ (PART TWO) —— 73

CHAPTER 47: SUMMER IN THE MOUNTAINS... (PART ONE) —— 95

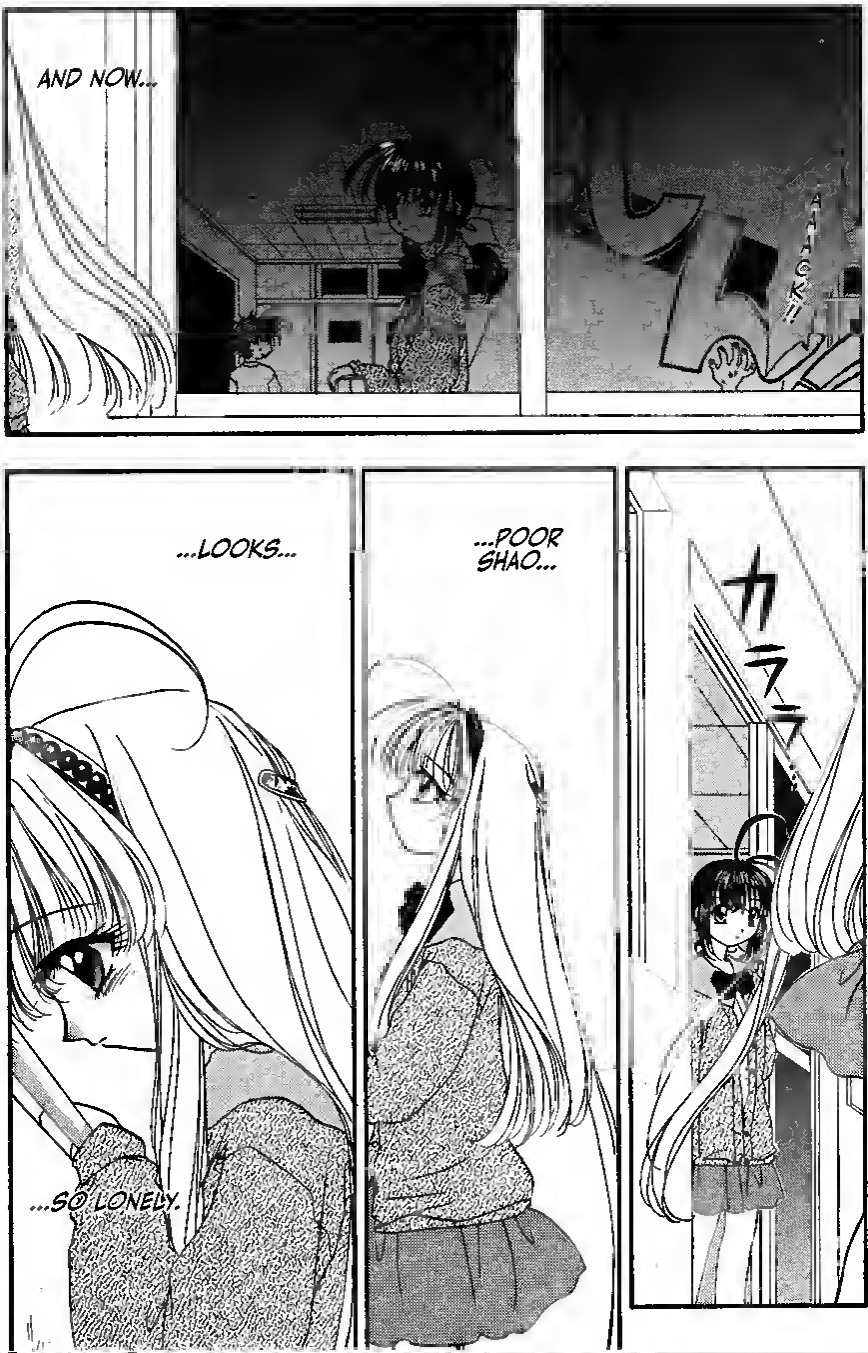
CHAPTER 48: SUMMER IN THE MOUNTAINS... (PART TWO) —— 125

CHAPTER 49: SUMMER IN THE MOUNTAINS... (PART THREE) —— 155

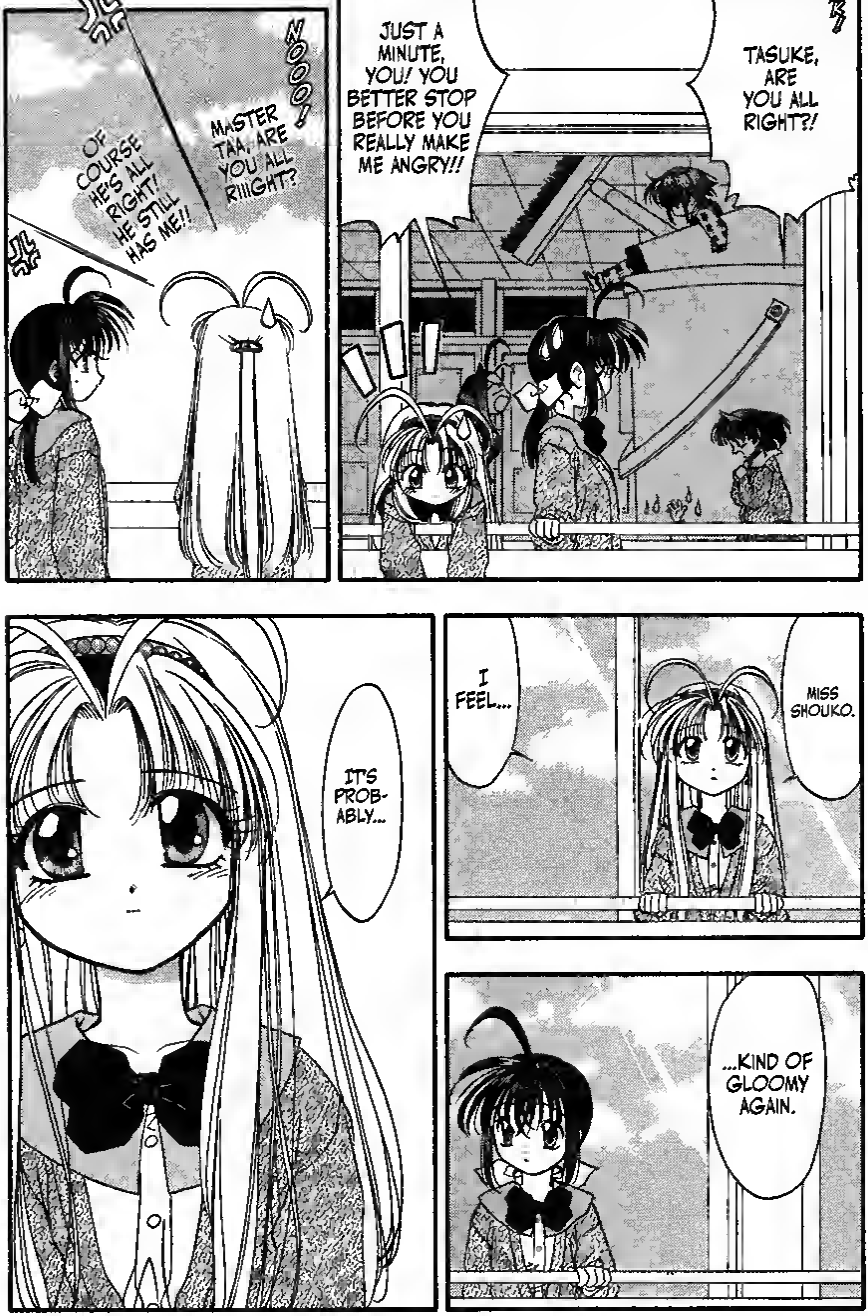
CHAPTER 50: ETERNAL GOOD FORTUNE —— 187

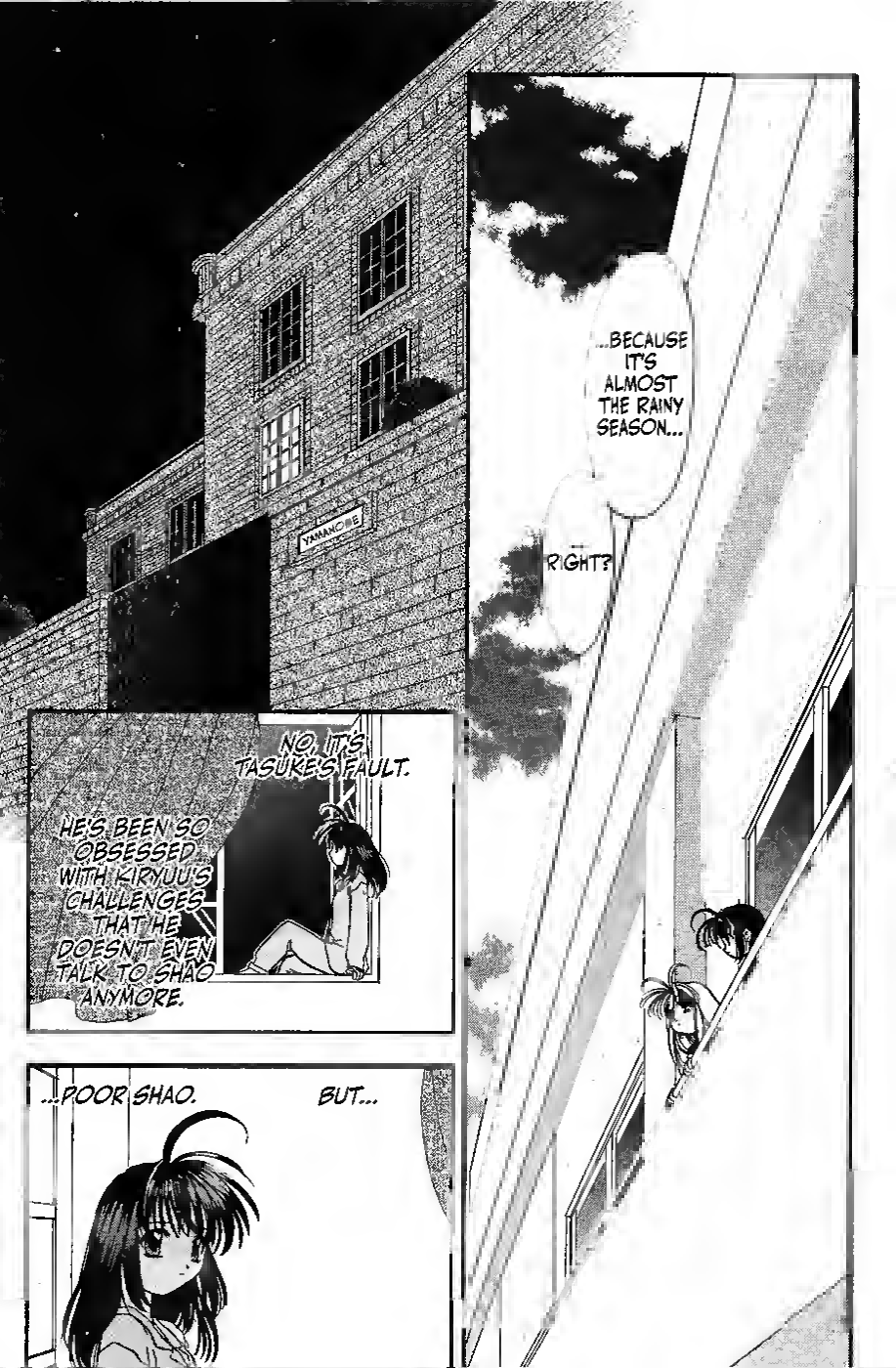
CHAPTER 43
THE LEGEND OF THE RAINY SEASON (PART ONE)

I'VE BEEN ...
...WONDERING THAT A LOT LATELY.
...WHY ARE GUYS SO INSENSITIVE?
REALLY ...
IT'S PROBABLY ...
ガタッ
OKAY!!
COME ON, KIRYUU!!
CLARE
...BECAUSE OF HER!!


AND NOW...
AIIEEK!!
...LOOKS...
...SO LONELY.
...POOR SHAO...
カラ

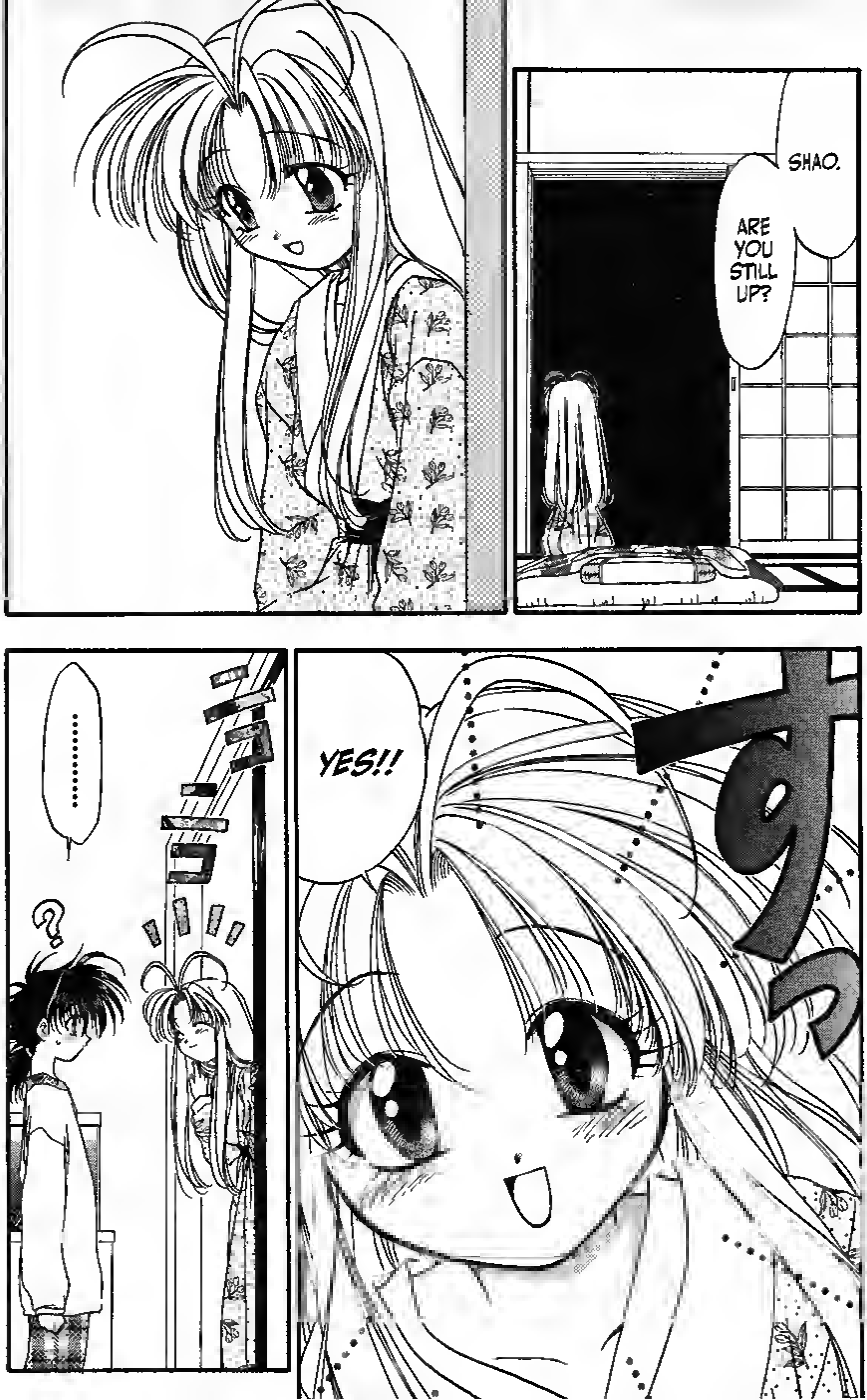
WA HA HA HA! IT'LL TAKE MORE THAN THIS TO BEAT ME!!
UMM...
HEY, SHAO.
WHAT'RE YOU DOING?
OUT HERE ON THE VERANDA...
NOTHING.
I'M JUST KIND OF... SORT OF...
...HERE. THAT'S ALL.


TASUKE, ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?!
BERN!
JUST A MINUTE, YOU! YOU BETTER STOP BEFORE YOU REALLY MAKE ME ANGRY!!
NOOO!
MASTER TAA, ARE YOU ALL RIIIGHT?
OF COURSE HE'S ALL RIGHT! HE STILL HAS ME!!
MISS SHOUKO.
I FEEL...
IT'S PROB-ABLY...
...KIND OF GLOOMY AGAIN.

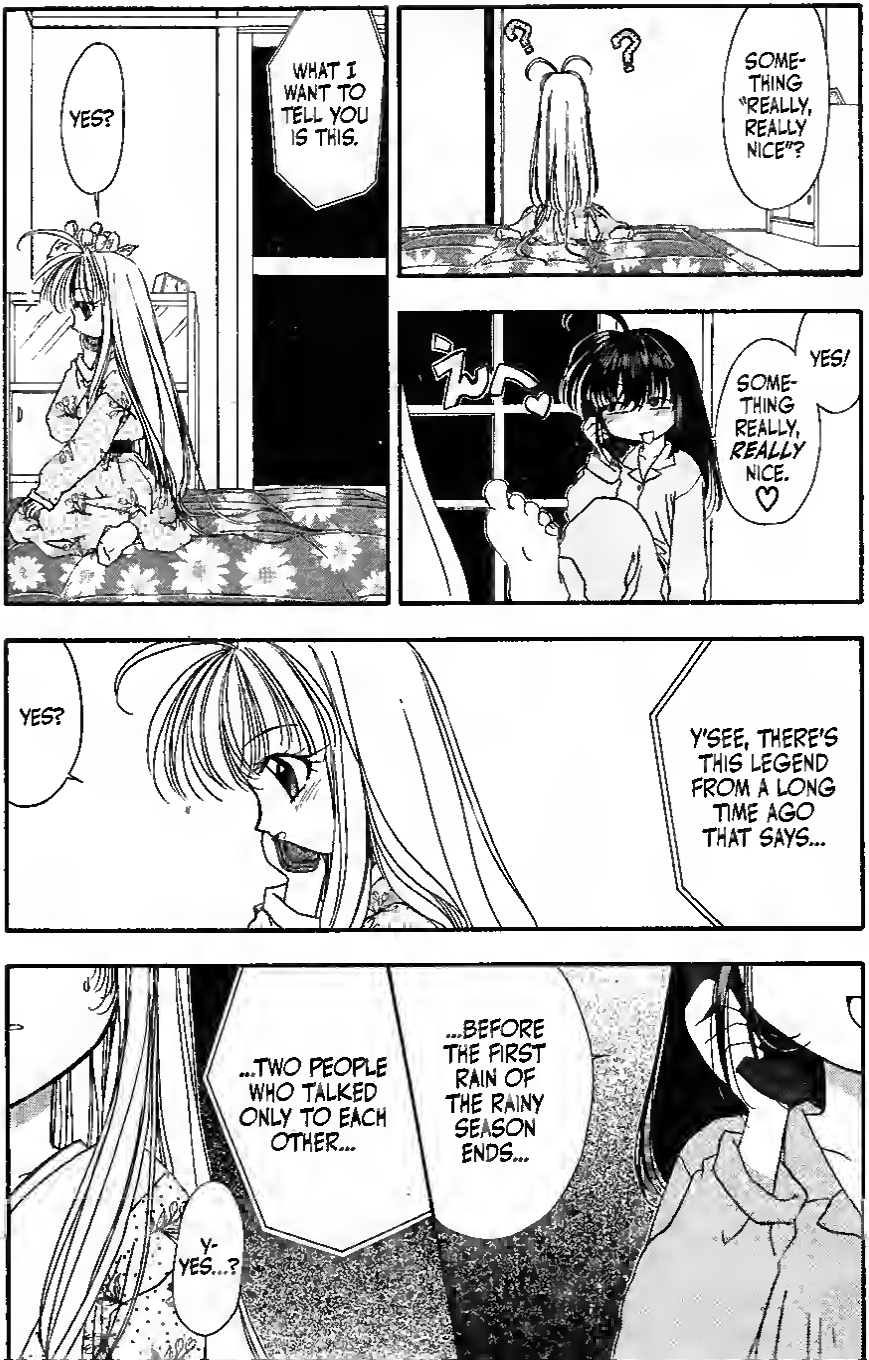

YAMANOBE
...BECAUSE IT'S ALMOST THE RAINY SEASON...
RIGHT?
NO, IT'S TASUKE'S FAULT.
HE'S BEEN SO OBSESSED WITH KIRYUU'S CHALLENGES THAT HE DOESN'T EVEN TALK TO SHAO ANYMORE.
...POOR SHAO.
BUT...

YOUR FEELINGS ARE TOTALLY VALID, NO MATTER WHAT SEASON IT IS.
YOU SHOULDN'T DISMISS YOUR FEELINGS...
YOU KNOW?
...JUST BECAUSE IT'S THE RAINY SEASON.
IT WOULD HELP IF YOU HAD JUST HALF OF WHAT...
...RUUAN AND KAORI HAVE. IF YOU COULD JUST...

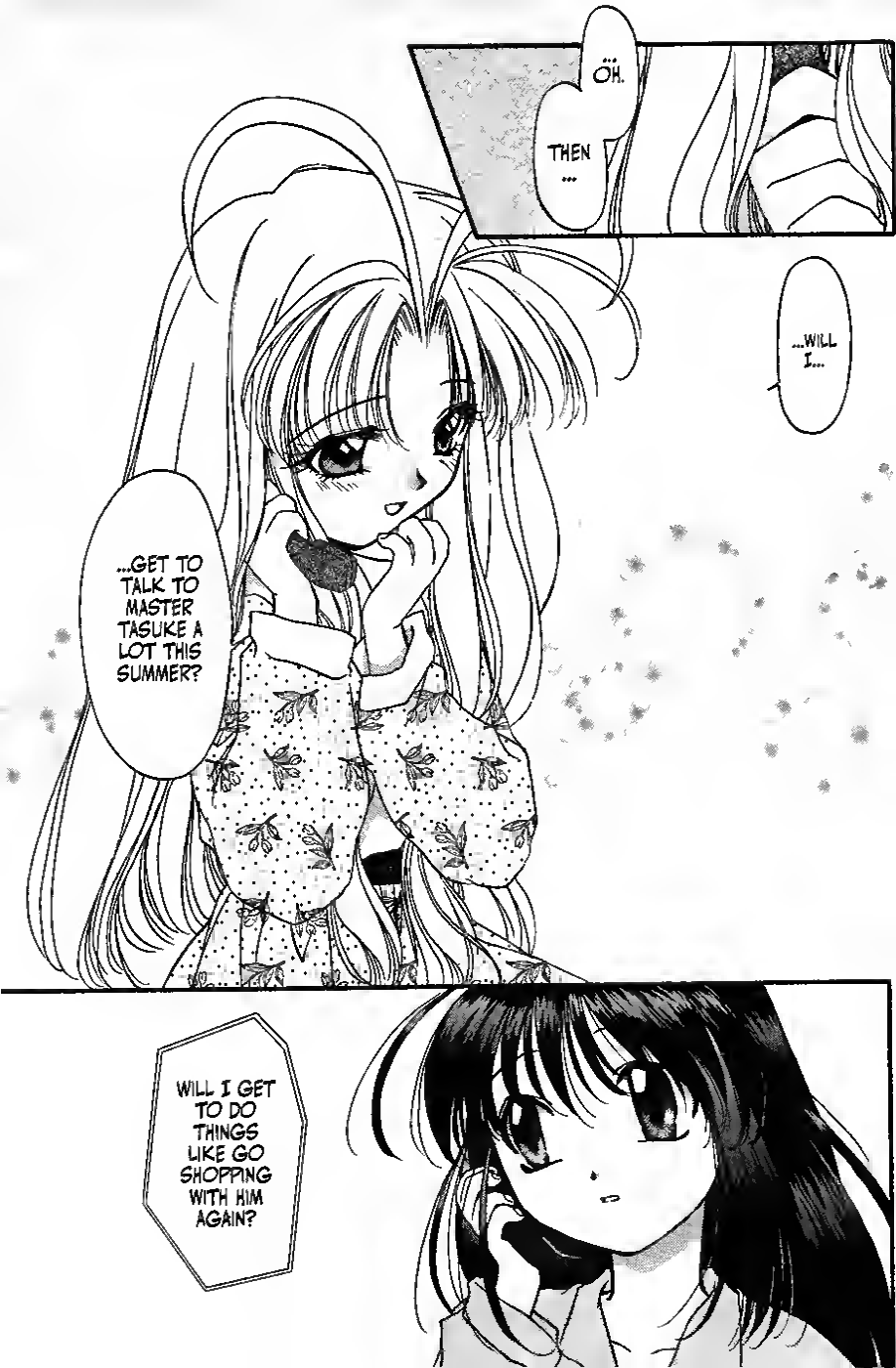
MMM...
IT FELT GOOD TO TAKE A BATH.
...LET TASUKE KNOW HOW YOU FEEL.
ALL I SAID TO MASTER TASUKE TODAY WAS, "GOOD MORNING," AND "GOOD NIGHT."
SIGH...
HUH?
トゥルルルルル
BRRR
MASTER TASUKE ...
...I WISH YOU'D COME TALK TO ME.
SIIIGH...


SHAO.
ARE YOU STILL UP?
.....
?
YES!!

I JUST REMEMBERED..
...THIS REALLY, REALLY NICE THING AND I HAD TO TELL YOU ABOUT IT BEFORE I WENT TO BED.
HEY SHAO.
HM?
UH... WELL...
SHE WANTS TO TALK TO YOU.
IT'S SHOUKO.
MISS SHOUKO?
THAT'S WHY I CALLED!!


YES?
WHAT I WANT TO TELL YOU IS THIS.
SOME-THING "REALLY, REALLY NICE"?
YES!
SOME-THING REALLY, REALLY NICE. ♡
YES?
Y'SEE, THERE'S THIS LEGEND FROM A LONG TIME AGO THAT SAYS...
Y-YES...?
...TWO PEOPLE WHO TALKED ONLY TO EACH OTHER...
...BEFORE THE FIRST RAIN OF THE RAINY SEASON ENDS...

...WILL BECOME UNBELIEVABLY HAPPY THAT SUMMER!!
DUN
DUN
DUN
WILL...
...BE-COME ...
...UNBELIEV-ABLY HAPPY?
THAT'S RIGHT!!


...GET TO TALK TO MASTER TASUKE A LOT THIS SUMMER?
...WILL I...
OH. THEN ...
WILL I GET TO DO THINGS LIKE GO SHOPPING WITH HIM AGAIN?

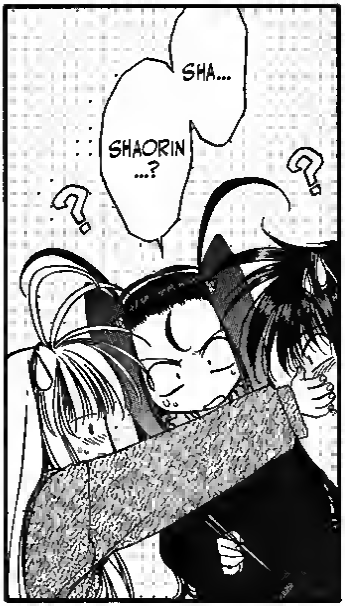
WILL...
...HE PLAY WITH RISHU AND EVERYONE AGAIN?
WHEN IT STARTS RAINING...
...I THINK...
...I'LL TRY REALLY HARD SO WE CAN BE HAPPY THIS SUMMER.

...I'M SURE TASUKE WILL SNAP OUT OF IT...
IF SHE TRIES REALLY HARD...
YEAH.
THAT'S GOOD.
...I'M REALIZE HOW HE'S...
...BEEN NEGLECTING HER.
BUT...
ガチャッ
...YOU'RE SO OBLIVI-OUS, TASUKE!!
HE DOESN'T HAVE A CLUE WHEN IT COMES TO WOMEN
しばらく
ACHOO!

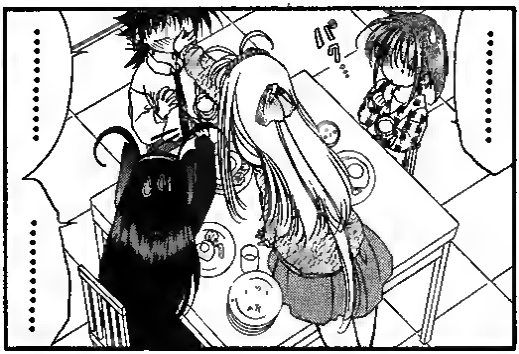
ス——
OH!
IT'S...
...RAINING.
WE HAVE TO TALK ONLY TO EACH OTHER.
THAT MEANS I CAN'T LET MASTER TASUKE TALK TO ANYONE ELSE.
EEEK! I HAVE TO CATCH HIM!!

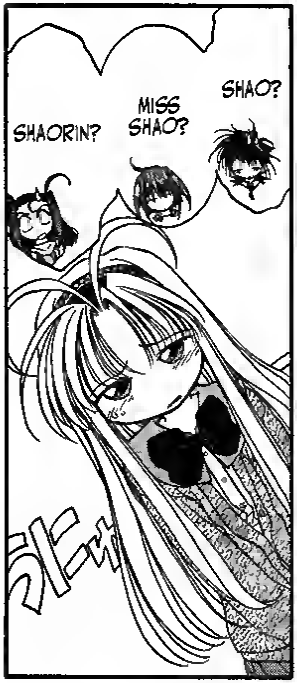
MASTER TASUKE !!
.....!!
I'M NOT DRESSED...
WH-WHAT'S UP?!
SH-SHAO...
UH...UHM...
GOOD ...
... MORNING ...
ペコ!!
GOOD MORNING !!

?
THANK GOODNESS MASTER TASUKE WAS STILL IN HIS ROOM.
AAH. I'M GLAD.
?
HERE, MASTER TAA, SAY, "AAAH." THIS IS SOO YUMMY. ♡
ガッ...
カッ カッ
...I HAVE BEEN THINKING ABOUT YOUR NEXT CHALLENGE--
SAY, MY LIEGE...
WHAT'S WRONG, MISS SHAO?!
AAH! WAAH! WAAH! EEK! EEK! EEEK!

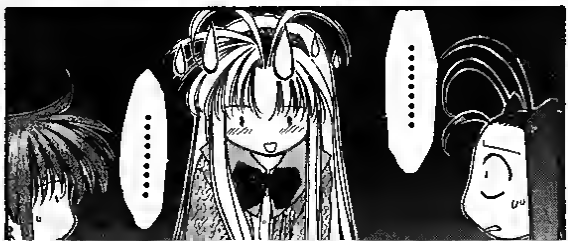

SHA...
SHAORIN ...?
?
?

MMPH.


.....
.....
.....
.....

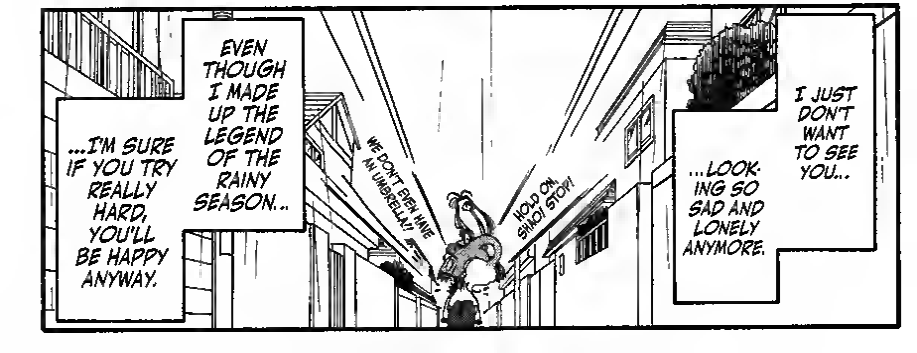

SHAORIN?
MISS SHAO?
SHAO?

SHAO... WH-WHAT'S THE MATTER? WHAT'S GOING ON?
YOU'RE ACTING FUNNY.
PHEW.


.....
.....

HUH?!
RAI RAI, KENEN!!
WHAT THE HECK IS GOING ONNNN?!
MASTER TAA...
……

SHAO...
I BET YOU'RE TRYING REALLY HARD RIGHT NOW.
SINCE THIS IS THE FIRST RAIN.
HEY, SHAO ...
I'M SORRY I LIED.


I JUST DON'T WANT TO SEE YOU...
...LOOKING SO SAD AND LONELY ANYMORE.
HOLD ON, SHAO! STOP!
WE DON'T EVEN HAVE AN UMBRELLA!
EVEN THOUGH I MADE UP THE LEGEND OF THE RAINY SEASON...
...I'M SURE IF YOU TRY REALLY HARD, YOU'LL BE HAPPY ANYWAY.

SO...
GO, SHAO!!

CHAPTER 44
THE LEGEND OF THE RAINY SEASON (PART TWO)

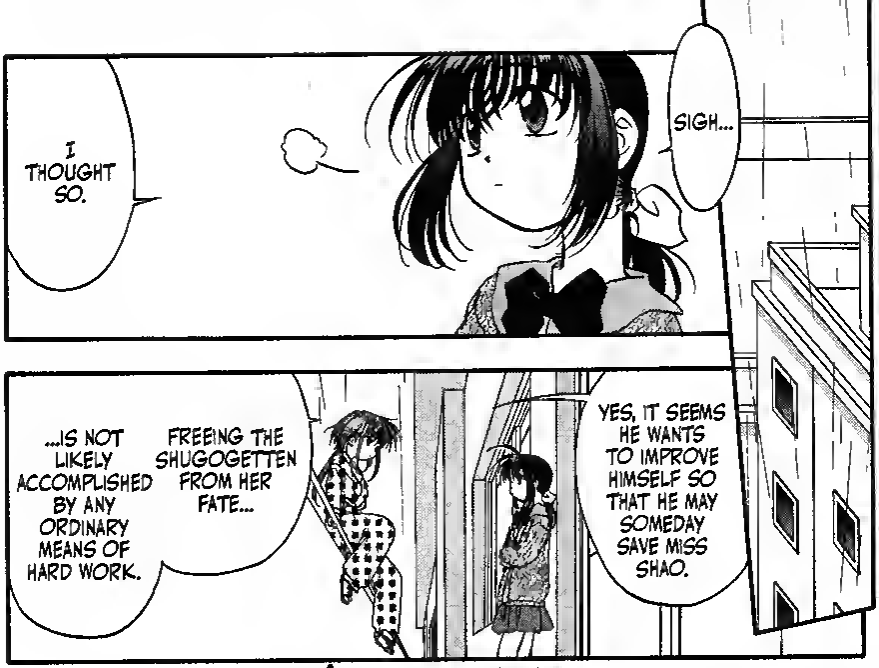
WHAAT DID YOU SAAAAY ?!!
I SAID...
...
"THAT'S WHY..."
YOU...
NNGH!!
NOT THAT.
"...ISN'T HERE."
"... MASTER TAA..."
...AND RAN AWAY SOME-WHERE!!
YOU SAID...
...SHAO KIDNAP-PED TASUKE...
のぼぉーん

BUT, RUUAN...
...YOU'RE UNCHARACTERISTICALLY CALM ABOUT THIS.
NOOO SHAAAQO!
YEAH, I SAID THAT TOO.
I COULDN'T HELP BUT OVERHEAR.
DOES THAT MEAN THEY ELOPED?!
NOT QUITE...
HE'S RIGHT!!
WHY ARE YOU SO CALM ABOUT THIS?!
WELL, YOU KNOW...
CHILL OUT, TAKASHI.

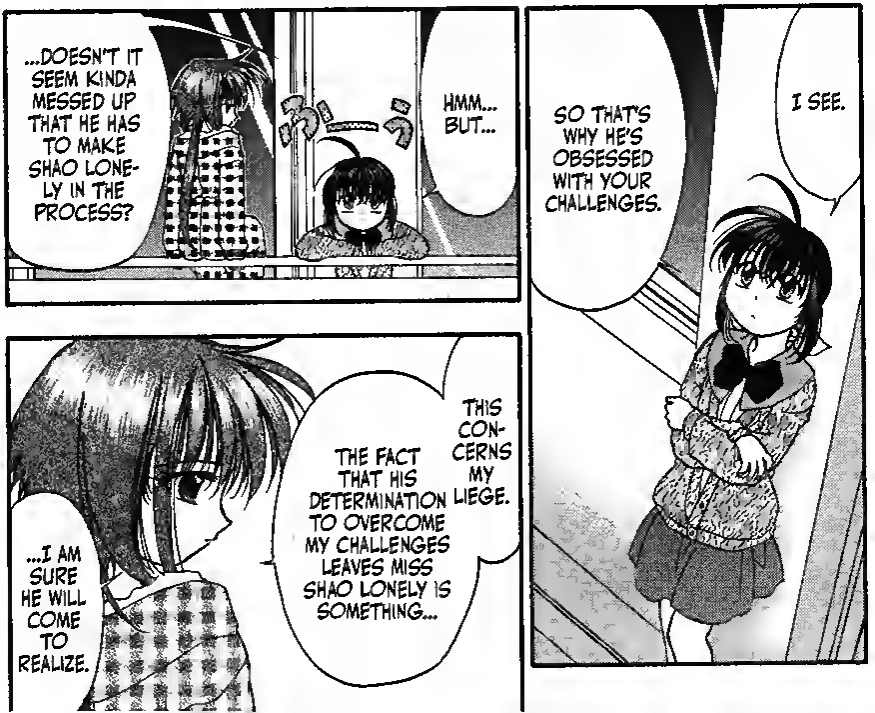
MISS RUUAN, DID YOU GIVE UP ON TASUKEEE?!
OF COURSE NOT. IT'S JUST THAT SHAORIN WAS ACTING SO WEIRD... LIKE SOMEONE ELSE
OH. I SEE.
YEAH... I GET IT.
MISS RUUAN'S SO OLD...
...SHE DOESN'T HAVE THE ENDURANCE TO CHASE AFTER A YOUNG MAN LIKE TASUKE... RIIIGHT?
T-KAORI YOU DIDN'T JUST-
WHAT DID YOU JUST SAAAY?!!
YOU PREPU-BESCENT GIRL-CHILD!!!
WHAT?
SHE'S, LIKE, ALREADY GONE.
WHAT DID YOU SAAAY?!

WHOA.
EVERYONE'S HORMONES ARE GOING GAGA.
SLAM
WAIT FOR ME, YOU CHEATER!!
IF TASUKE DOES SOMETHING TO SHAO, I'LL NEVER FORGIVE HIM!
SHAAAO!
IT IS KINDA ALL MY FAULT.
YO!
AREN'T YOU GOING TO LOOK FOR TASUKE?
K-RYUU?

IT'S THAT OBVIOUS, EH?
OH WELL.
AH!
I ALMOST FORGOT.
THERE'S ONE THING I WANTED TO ASK YOU...
...KURU.
...SAID SOMETHING TO MISS SHAO, DID YOU NOT...
...MISS SHOUKO?
.....
YOU...


SIGH...
I THOUGHT SO.
YES, IT SEEMS HE WANTS TO IMPROVE HIMSELF SO THAT HE MAY SOMEDAY SAVE MISS SHAO.
FREEING THE SHUGOGETTEN FROM HER FATE...
...IS NOT LIKELY ACCOMPLISHED BY ANY ORDINARY MEANS OF HARD WORK.

† CHILDREN DO NOT TRY THIS AT HOME.

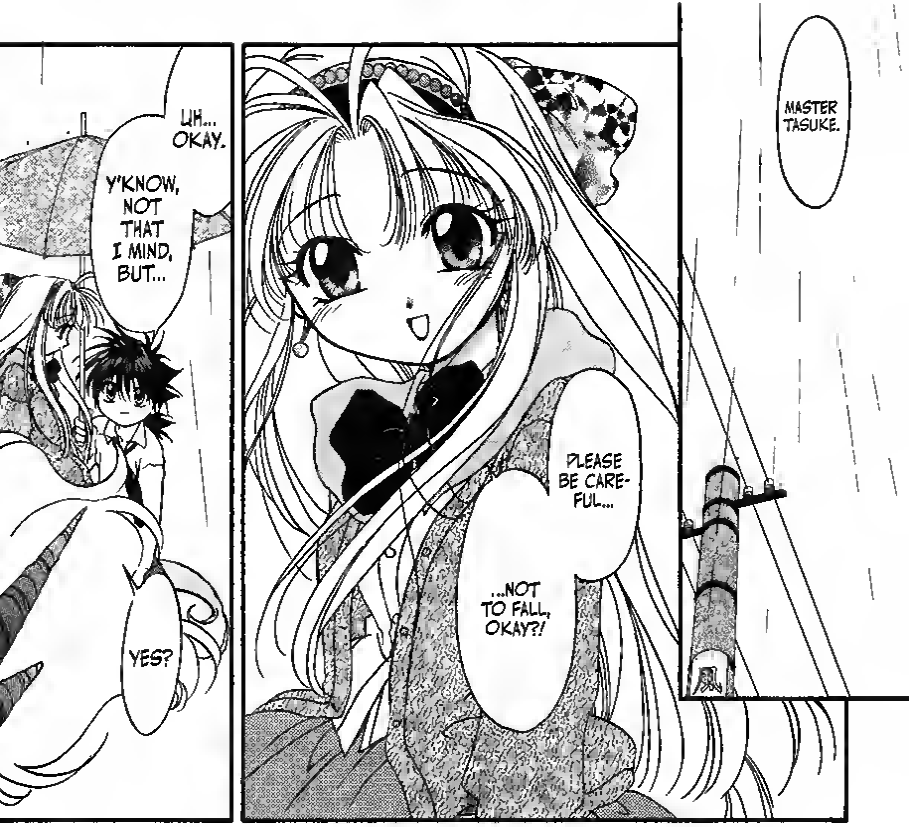

I SEE.
SO THAT'S WHY HE'S OBSESSED WITH YOUR CHALLENGES.
HMM... BUT...
...DOESN'T IT SEEM KINDA MESSED UP THAT HE HAS TO MAKE SHAO LONELY IN THE PROCESS?
THIS CONCERNS MY LIEGE.
THE FACT THAT HIS DETERMINATION TO OVERCOME MY CHALLENGES LEAVES MISS SHAO LONELY IS SOMETHING...
...I AM SURE HE WILL COME TO REALIZE.

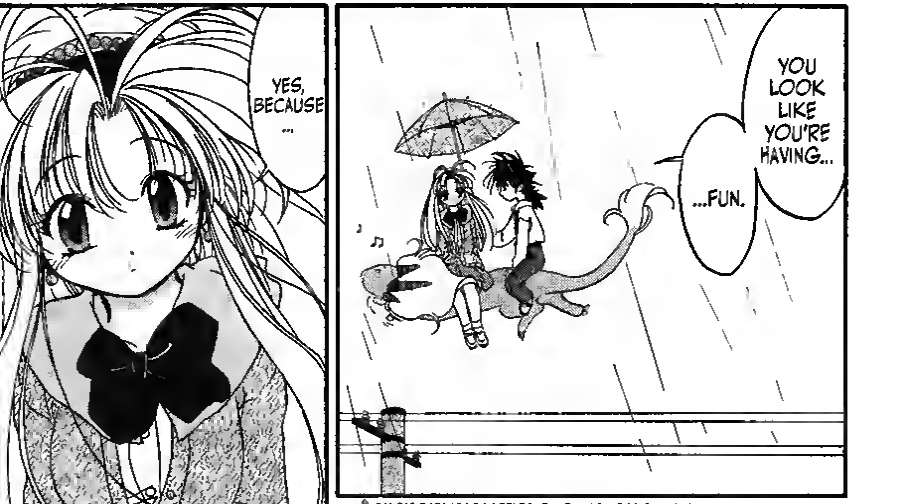
BUT THE REAL ISSUE IS HOW SHAO FEELS.
TO ACKNOWLEDGE AND AMEND THAT SITUATION ...
. . . IS YET ANOTHER CHALLENGE FOR MY LIEGE, IS IT NOT?
YOU'RE REALLY COOL.
IS THAT SO?
THINK ABOUT IT, TASUKE!
IS ALL THE EFFORT YOU'RE PUTTING INTO HELPING HER IN THE FUTURE REALLY WORTH IT, IF IT MAKES HER SO UNHAPPY IN THE PRESENT?
UH...
HEY...
... SHAO.

AMAZING.
YOU MUST HAVE A SIXTH-SENSE.
MAYBE IT'S ANOTHER SHUGOGETTEN SUPERPOWER
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
HEY.
I GET THE FEELING MISS RUUAN'S NEARBY TOO.
WE AREN'T SAFE HERE.
TASUKE?
I HAVE MY COMPACT, REMEMBER? ♡
BUT DON'T UNDER-ESTIMATE ME.
RAI RAI, KOKA!
"PAT"...?
!!

OOH!! GIVE ME MY COMPACT BAAACK!!
N-N-N-N-N-N-NO!!
I'LL RETURN IT TO YOU LATER!!
GYAAAA !!!
WH-WHAT'RE YOU DOING?!!
CHOMP
...SHE SEEMS TO BE HAVING FUN.
SHAO...
...WHAT SHE'S UP TO, BUT...
I DON'T KNOW...

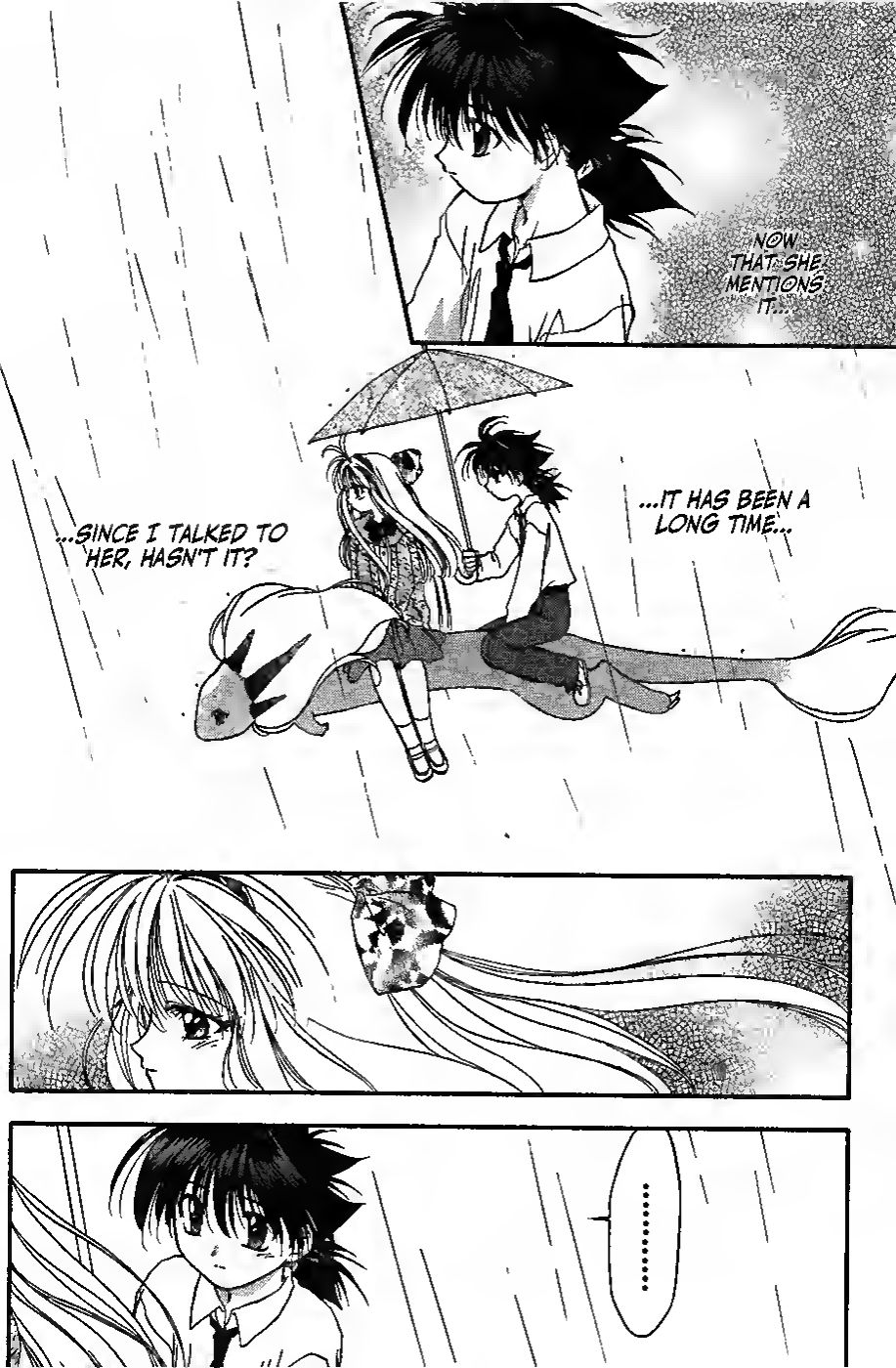
HEEEY, SHAO!!
RAI RAI, RISHU!!
OH, IT'S SHAO!!
OH?
WHY DID SHE DROP RISHU OFF?
HUH?
NNNNNNNNN!! (RISHU, PLEASE TAKE CARE OF THE REST!!)
R-RISHUU!
AAH!
LADY SHAOO!
BUT I SUPPOSE WE SHOULD TAKE HER HOME.
IT PROBABLY ISN'T EASY FOR HER TO DO IT BY HERSELF.
RISHU DOESN'T UNDERSTAND WHAT YOU MEAN WHEN YOU SAY, "NNN."
HMM...
I DON'T KNOW.





* SHAO'S ENTHUSIASM APPARENTLY RUBBED OFF ON KENEN

WELL, IT'S BEEN A WHILE...
.....
...SINCE I'VE GOTTEN TO BE WITH YOU LIKE THIS, MASTER TASUKE.
SHAO ...
.....


NOW THAT SHE MENTIONS IT...
...IT HAS BEEN A LONG TIME...
...SINCE I TALKED TO HER, HASN'T IT?
.....

MASTER TASUKE!
I CAME TO GET ...
...INGRE-DIENTS FOR DINNER!!
MASTER TASUKE, WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE TO EAT TONIGHT?
HUH? UM... HOW ABOUT SOMETHING WITH BEEF?
WHAT DO YOU NEED TO BUY, SHAO?
UMM ...
WE HAVEN'T GONE SHOPPING, JUST THE TWO OF US...
...IN A LONG TIME! IT'S SO MUCH FUN! ♡
YEAH.

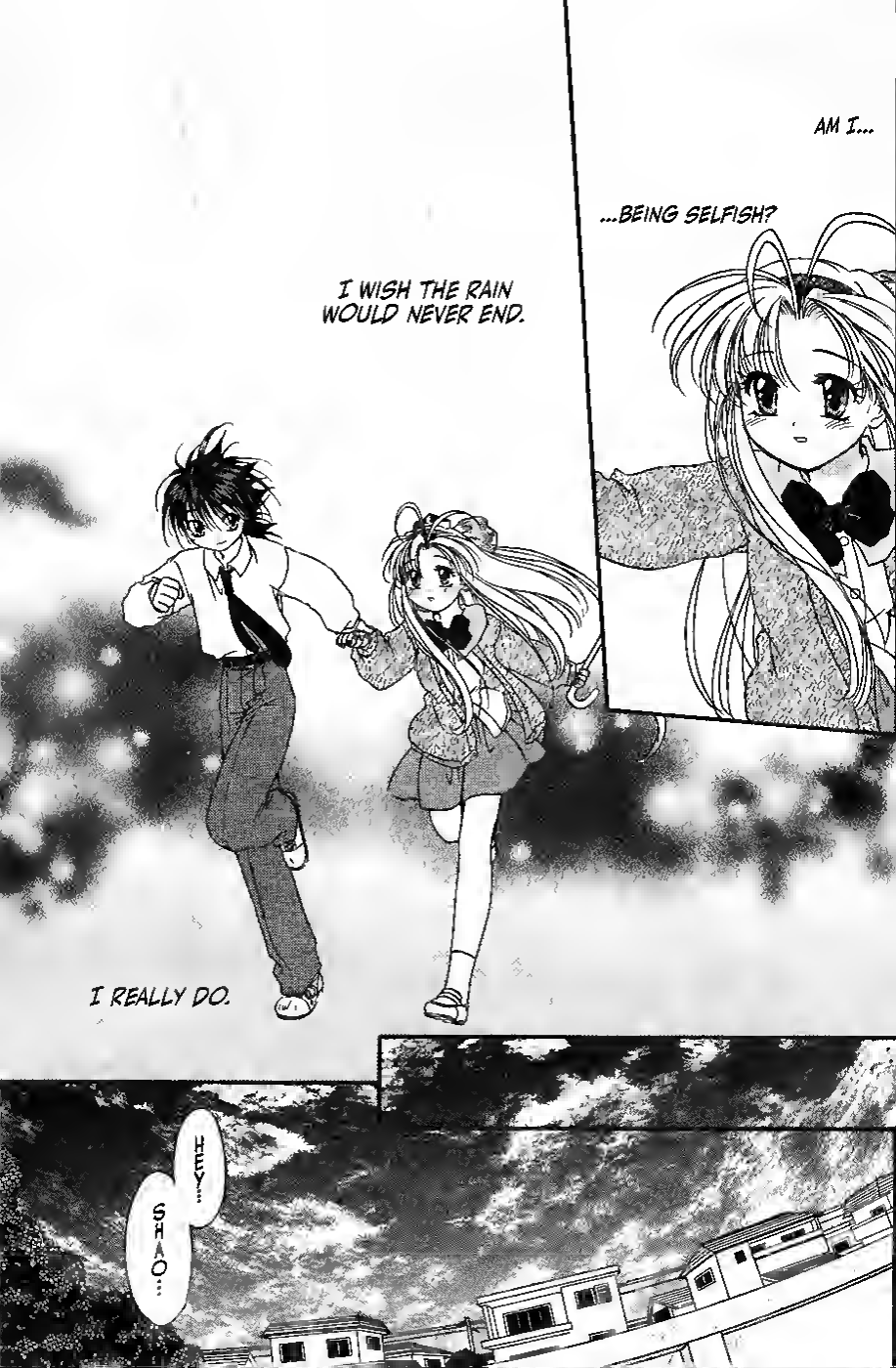
.....
OH...
FOUND YOU, TASUKE!!
ばばん
FINALLY!
NOW THAT I FOUND YOU, I WON'T LET SHAO...
...KIDNAP YOU AGAIN!!
OH... KA--
LET'S GO BACK TO SCHOOL!!
NO!!
HUH?!

IF YOU TALK TO SOMEONE ELSE NOW...
...THE HAPPINESS WILL GET AWAY!!
THE RAIN'S NOT OVER YET!
HUH?
NNNNNN...
...MASTER TASUKE AND I...!!
THAT'S WHY...
IF ONLY THE TWO OF US, YOU AND ME, TALK...!!
I MEAN, MASTER TASUKE HAS TO TALK TO ME AND I HAVE TO TALK TO MASTER TASUKE, AND THE RAIN WILL STOP, RIGHT?
THAT'S WHY!!
WH-WH-WH-WH-WHAT?!

THAT'S WHY, UNTIL IT STOPS RAINING...
...YOU CAN'T TALK TO ANYONE ELSE!!
THAT'S WHAT MISS SHOUKO SAAAIID!!
YOU AGAIN, SHOU-KO!!
じたばた
じたばた
SHAO, I GET IT.
YOU CAN CALM DOWN.
ぽん
BUT...
THAT MEANS, RIGHT NOW... WE SHOULD RUN FOR IT!!

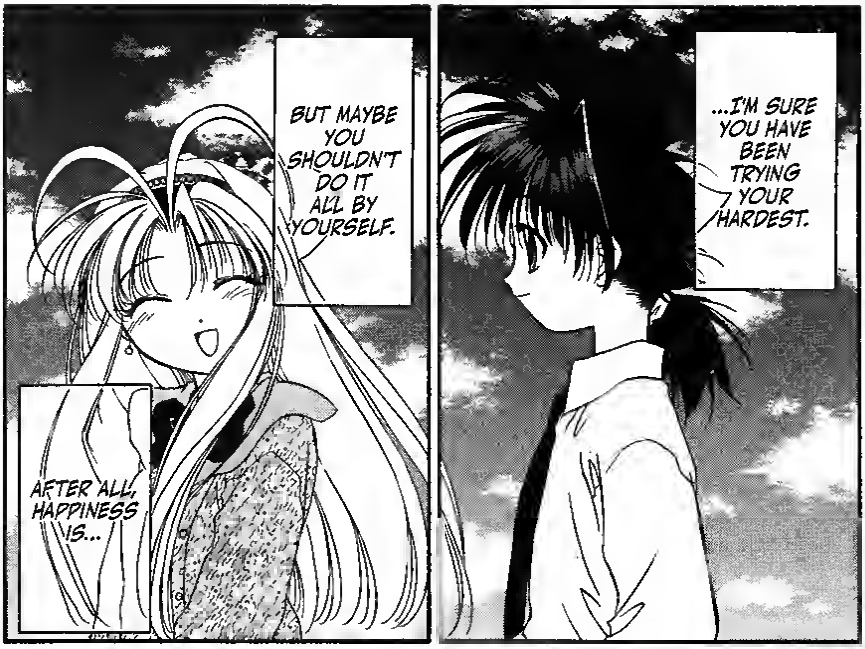
I GUESS I'LL BE GRATEFUL FOR SHOUKO'S LIE THIS TIME... I GUESS.
OOH TASUKE, WAAIT!!
OH!
MASTER TAA!!

MISS, SHOUKO...!


AM I...
...BEING SELFISH?
I WISH THE RAIN WOULD NEVER END.
I REALLY DO.
HEY...
SHAO...

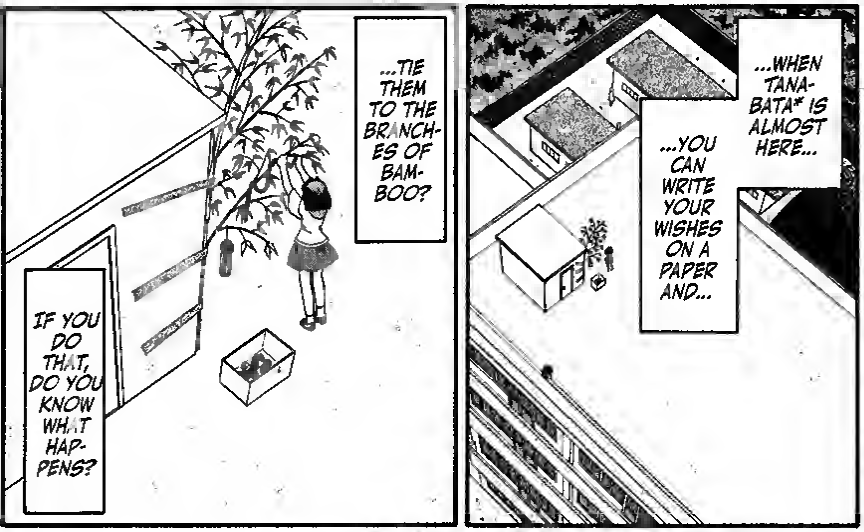
IT STOPPED RAINING.
...OH.
WHAT DID...
...SHOUKO SAY WOULD HAPPEN...
...AFTER THE RAIN STOPPED?
SHE SAID...
...WE WILL BECOME UNBELIE-VABLY HAPPY THIS SUMMER!!

I SEE!!
I SHOULD BE THINKING ABOUT THIS SUMMER...
...BEFORE I WORRY ABOUT THE FAR-OFF FUTURE ANYWAY.
OKAAAY, I'M GOING TO TRY MY HARDEST!!
UMM, YOU KNOW, TA-SUKE ...

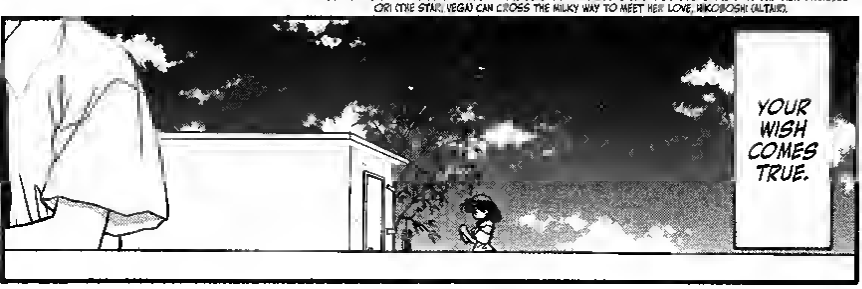

BUT MAYBE YOU SHOULDN'T DO IT ALL BY YOURSELF.
AFTER ALL, HAPPINESS IS...
...I'M SURE YOU HAVE BEEN TRYING YOUR HARDEST.

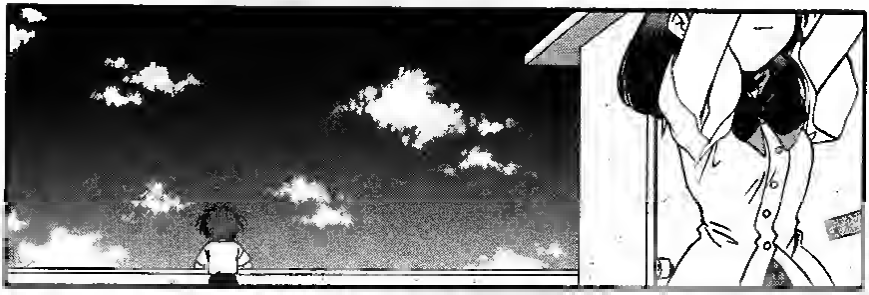
...SOME-THING YOU NURTURE TOGETHER, RIGHT?

CHAPTER 45
KAORI'S WISH UPON A STAR ♡ (PART ONE)


IF YOU DO THAT, DO YOU KNOW WHAT HAP-PENS?
...TIE THEM TO THE BRANCH-ES OF BAM-BOO?
...YOU CAN WRITE YOUR WISHES ON A PAPER AND...
...WHEN TANA-BATA* IS ALMOST HERE...

* FESTIVAL HELD ON THE SEVENTH DAY OF THE SEVENTH MONTH. IT IS SAID THAT THIS IS THE ONLY DAY THAT PRINCESS ORI (THE STAR, VEGA) CAN CROSS THE MILKY WAY TO MEET HER LOVE, HIKOBOSHI (ALTAIR).





I KIND OF... REALIZED...
...THAT MY FEELINGS WILL NEVER REACH YOU.

SIGH... I HOPE ...
...MY WISH WILL NEVER BE GRANTED.

YOU'LL NEVER BE MY GIRL.
OH, SHAO.

TAKA-SHI!
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?
OUR WISHES WILL COME TRUE!
IF YOU WRITE YOUR WISHES ON PAPER AND HANG THEM FROM BAMBOO, THEY COME TRUE!!
AFTER ALL, IN TWO DAYS, IT'S JULY 7TH--TANABATA!
HUH...?
YOU DIDN'T KNOW THAT, TAKASHI?

OH REALLY.
WELL, YOU DON'T KNOW HOW TO DREAM!!
THAT'S JUST A STUPID SUPER-STITION. WISHES DON'T COME TRUE.
FACE THE FACTS, KAORI. YOU'RE JUST A DREAMER.
SIGH.
TYPICAL. SHE ALWAYS HAS SOME RANDOM INSULT READY.
TAKASHI, YOU'RE SO FULL OF HOT AIR YOU'RE GONG TO BECOME AN OLD WINDBAG!!
SO THERE.
THAT'S FINE WITH ME! ONLY KAORI'S WISH'LL COME TRUE!
NOPE, NOT A THING.
DID YOU SAY SOME-THING?
すぐっ
...BELIEVE THESE STUPID SUPER-STITIONS?
JEEZ. WHY DO WOMEN...
...IT'LL LOOK KIND OF SHABBY
I NEED MORE DECORATIONS OR...
かざり入れ

BOX: DECORATIONS

1ST YEAR CLASS 3
KAORI ...
WHAT'RE YOU DOING?
I'M MAKING TANABATA DECORATIONS.
WANT TO JOIN ME, ATSUMI AND YUKA?
WHAT, ARE YOU CRAZY?! IT'S ALMOST FINAL EXAMS!!
WE DON'T HAVE TIME FOR MAKING DECORATIONS, KAORI!!
LAST TIME YOU ALMOST FAILED MATH!!
CALM DOWN, YUKA.

MAKING MY WISH COME TRUE...
...IS MORE IMPORTANT THAN STUDYING FOR FINALS!
I'M GOING TO WRITE MY WISH DOWN ON THIS PAPER.
KAORI, ENOUGH WITH THE CRAZY TALK!
ORI AND HIKOBOSHI ARE GOING TO GRANT IT FOR ME.
KAORI, YOU'RE SUCH A ROMANTIC.
DON'T IGNORE MEEE!
WHAT ARE YOU WISHING FOR?
IT'S A SECRET!!
DON'T YOU THINK IT HAS A BETTER CHANCE... OF COMING TRUE IF I DON'T TELL ANYONE?

I GUESS I'LL HAVE TO MAKE SOME MORE.
ROOF
THE MORE DECORATIONS I HAVE, THE BETTER CHANCE OF MY WISH COMING TRUE.
HMM. IT STILL DOESN'T LOOK PRETTY ENOUGH.
YEAH, SO?
IT'S NONE OF YOUR BUSINESS. YOU CAN LEAVE ALREADY.
WHAT ARE YOU DOING UP HERE, MISS RUUAN?
DON'T EVEN THINK ABOUT EATING THEM.
THESE ARE TANABATA DECORATIONS, AREN'T THEY?
DID YOU MAKE THEM?

THAT'S RIGHT, BUT IT WON'T WORK FOR YOU, MISS RUUAN.
THIS BAMBOO IS FOR KAORI. ONLY MY WISH'LL COME TRUE. SO THERE!
ARE YOU STUPID?
DID YOU CALL ME STUPID?!

WHY DON'T YOU FORGET ABOUT MAKING A WISH AND DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT? IN THE MEANTIME, I'LL JUST HELP MYSELF.
YOU'RE FULL OF HOT AIR TOO, MISS RUUAN.

YOU'RE SUCH A BABY, YOU HAVE TO MAKE A WISH FOR IT TO HAPPEN. I BET YOU WOULDN'T EVEN KNOW WHAT TO DO IF IT DID COME TRUE.
YOU'RE JUST GOING TO WISH FOR THAT TO HAPPEN BETWEEN YOU AND TASUKE.

"THAT" = SOMETHING HOT AND STEAMY

GEE, IT MUST BE NICE...TO BE A KID...
TAKASHI?
I WANT TO DO SOMETHING LIKE THAT...
HUMPH. AND I WANT TO SAY DAYDREAMY THINGS LIKE YOU.
HAVE YOU BEEN HERE THE WHOLE TIME?
SINCE LUNCH RECESS!
THIS IS SO DEPRESSING.
GIVE IT UP, KAORI.
ESPECIALLY...
HA HA...
...IF YOU ACTUALLY SAY YOU WANT TO DO THAT.
NO MATTER WHAT YOU DO, SOME WISHES JUST DON'T COME TRUE.
I DON'T GET HOW YOU CAN BE SO DENSE. DON'T YOU REALIZE IT'LL NEVER HAPPEN?
IT'S PREPOSTEROUS.

I BELIEVE ANYTHING CAN COME TRUE!!
IT WILL COME TRUE!
バタバタ!!
TAKASHI, YOU'RE STUPID!!
STILL A BIT BEING THAT NAÏVE...
...IS PRACTICALLY A TALENT.

AAH... THE WINDOWS ON THIS SIDE ARE COOLER.
THE VERANDA'S HOT
OH!
THEY WON'T SHUT UP! THEY'RE ALL LIKE, "STUDY, STUDY"!!!
I'M GOING TO FIND A PLACE WHERE ALL THE DREAM CRASHERS WON'T BOTHER ME
JUST WHEN TANABATA'S TOMOR-ROW!!
REALLY!
I FORGOT SCISSORS!!
.....?

2ND YEAR, CLASS 1
UH...
UMM. HEH, YOU KNOW, KIRYUU ...
...IT'S PROBABLY NOT A GOOD IDEA...
...TO MAKE SOMETHING THAT SHARP THAT BIG. IT MIGHT... STAB.
THEY BROUGHT IN A NEW WEAPON, EH?
IT'S A NEW WEAPON.
IT IS A CHALLENGE. ACCEPT IT.
HA HA, I THOUGHT SO.
BANSHOU TAIRAN.
EEK!!

WAAAII--
WAI--
YES!
THAT IS HOW YOU AVOID IT.
WAIT A MINUTE!!
IT'S GONNA KILL ME!

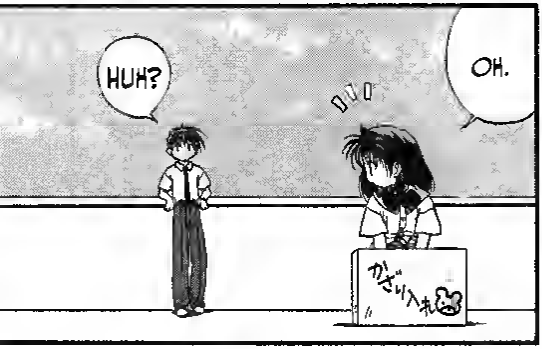
SO YOU'RE IN HERE AFTER ALL!!
MASTER TASUKE, ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
I THOUGHT I WAS MISSING ONE, AND HERE IT IS!
DOES THAT MEAN WE'RE FATED TO BE TOGETHER?
KIRYUU, CAN I HAVE MY CRANE BACK, PLEASE?
OH.
IT BELONGS TO MISS KAORI.
OOH!!
OH, TASUKE'S TOUCHING MY CRANE. ♡
MORE LIKE HE'S RIDING IT.
.....
POINTLESS.
I'M PUTTING THIS CRANE ON THE VERY TOP!!
YAY! MY WISH IS TOTALLY GOING TO COME TRUE NOW! ♡

CAW.
SIGH.
I'M TOO SHORT.
I CAN'T REACH THE VERY TOP.
IT'S A SIGN.
MEANS YOU SHOULD JUST GIVE UP.
.....

GET A CLUE ALREADY.
YOU AND I CAN'T POSSIBLY COME BETWEEN SHAO AND TASUKE.

IF ALL YOU'RE GOING TO DO IS TEASE ME...
...YOU CAN JUST GO AWAY.

WHY DON'T YOU JUST KEEP YOUR NEGATIVE THOUGHTS TO YOURSELF, TAKASHI?
I'M NOT GIVING UP YET!
かざり入れ


OH.
HUH?
かざり入れ

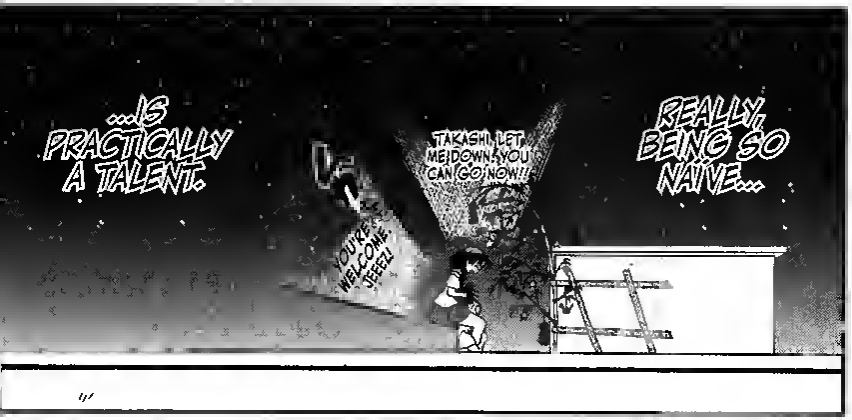
HOW DID I GET SUCKER-ED...
...HEY.
STRETCH, TAKASHI. A LITTLE HIGHER.
NNNPH
.....
!!!
SERI-OUSLY.
I'M SERIOUS! PLEASE DON'T MOVE. OKAAAY?!!
TAKA-SHI!
EEK!
DON'T MOVE! I'M GONNA FALL!!
...INTO DOING THIS ?!!

SHE STILL HASN'T HUNG UP THE PAPER YET.
カサ
...TO MAKE THESE DECORATIONS.
SHE WORKED SO HARD...
HMM?
KAORI'S WISH FOR "THAT" WAS...THAT?!
YOU'RE SUCH A BABY. YOU HAVE TO MAKE A WISH FOR IT TO HAPPEN. I BET YOU WOULDN'T EVEN KNOW WHAT TO DO IF IT DID COME TRUE.
YOU'RE JUST GOING TO WISH FOR THAT TO HAPPEN BETWEEN YOU AND TASUKU
THAT'S...
WHAT...?
TA

WHAT'D SHE BEAT YOU AT?

I REACHED IT! I REACHED IT! ♡
TAKA-SHI!!
NOW MY WISH WILL...
...DEFINITELY REACH THE HEAVENS!!
I THINK... IT JUST MIGHT REACH IT, AFTER ALL.
YEAH.
THAT'S RIGHT.

I CAN'T HELP IT.
I'LL GRANT YOUR WISH FOR YOU.


...IS PRACTICALLY A TALENT.
TAKASHI, LET ME DOWN! YOU CAN GO NOW!!
YOU'RE WELCOME, SEE?!
REALLY, BEING SO NAIVE...

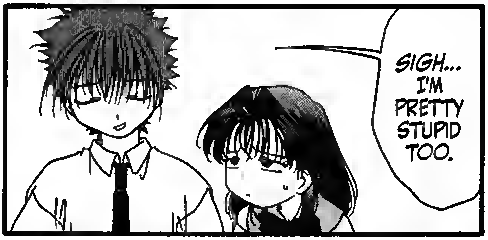
CHAPTER 46
KAORI'S WISH UPON A STAR♡ (PART TWO)

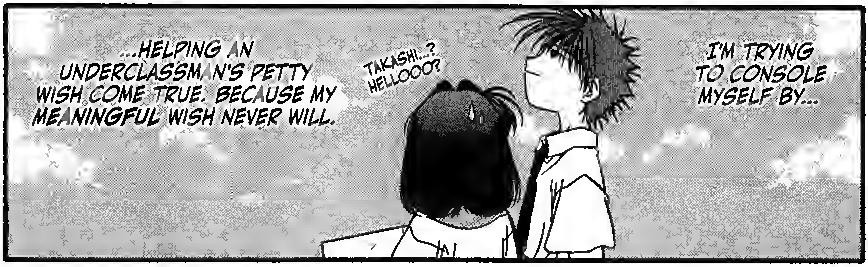
FROM THE FIRST MOMENT I SAW YOU...
...I BELIEVED THAT...
...SOMEHOW...
...SOMEDAY...
...I'D MAKE YOU MY GIRLFRIEND.
THAT'S WHAT I THOUGHT.

...THAT WAY.
YOU NEVER LOOK AT ME...
...BECAUSE I'VE WATCHED YOU ALL THIS TIME.
BUT I KNOW BETTER NOW...
IT'S FOR THE BEST, RIGHT, SHAO?
...I'M NOT GOING TO WASTE MY TIME WITH FOOLISH DREAMS.
HE'LL MAKE YOU HAPPY. THAT'S WHY...
I KNOW. HE'S A GOOD GUY.

.....

TAKA-SHI...
ARE YOU...ALL RIGHT?

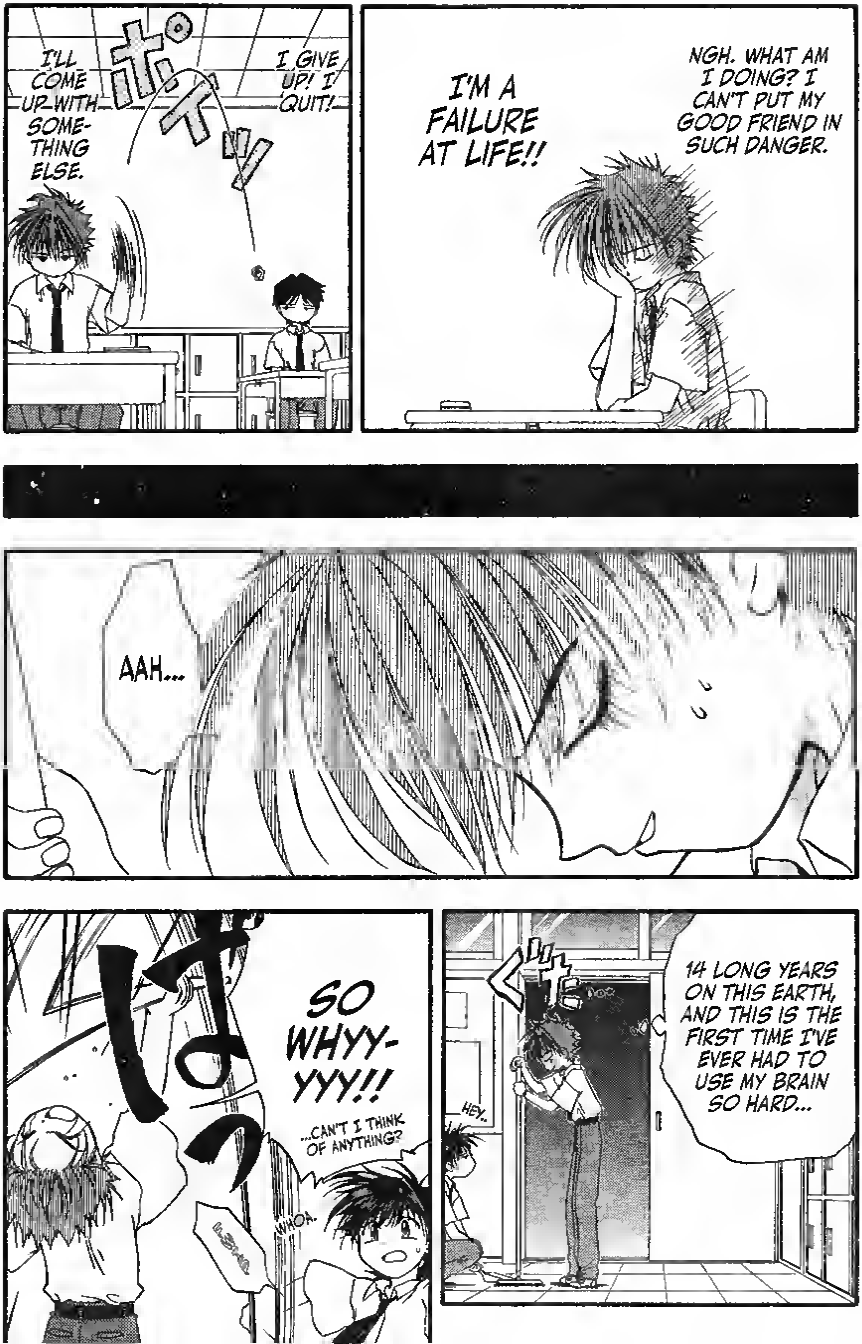

SIGH... I'M PRETTY STUPID TOO.


...HELPING AN UNDERCLASSMAN'S PETTY WISH COME TRUE. BECAUSE MY MEANINGFUL WISH NEVER WILL.
TAKASHI...? HELLOOO?
I'M TRYING TO CONSOLE MYSELF BY...

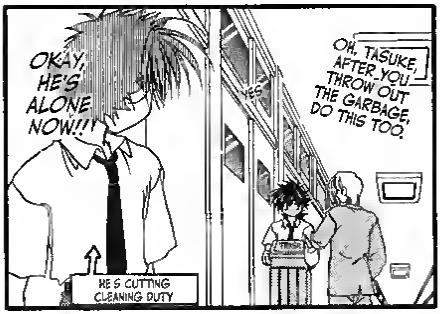
GOODBYE...
...MY WISH.
T-TAKASHI, GET AHOLD OF YOURSELF!!

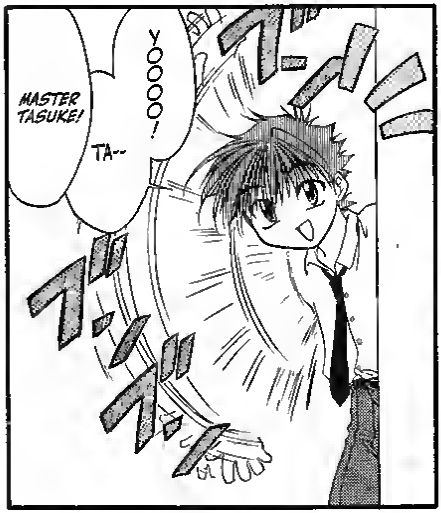
WITH THIS, I'LL FREE MYSELF...
...FROM MY ATTACHMENT TO WHAT I CAN NEVER HAVE.

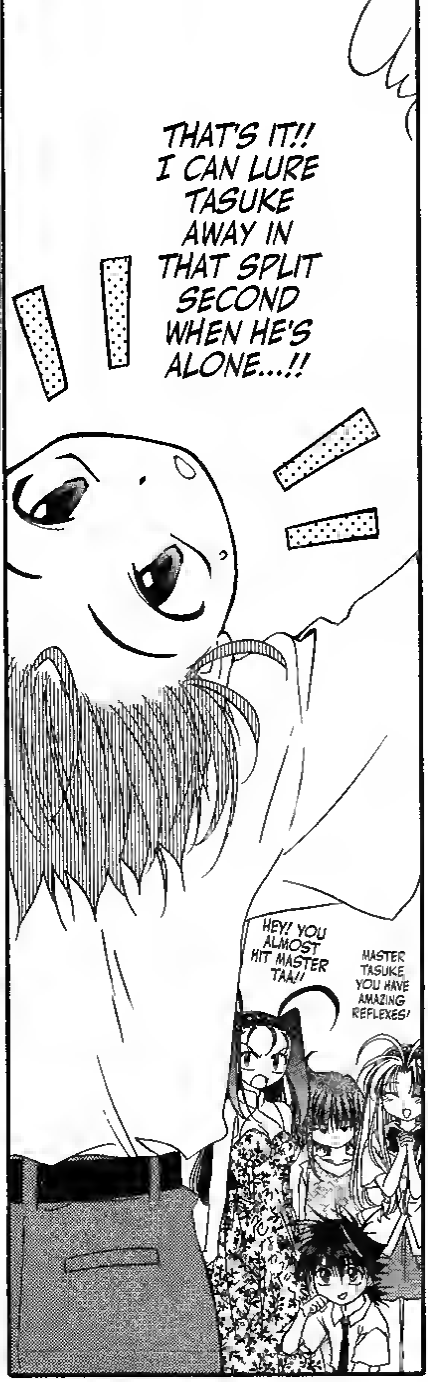
2ND YEAR CLASS 1
MISS HUG... GETTING TRY SOLVING THIS PROBLEM.
YES
THE PROBLEM IS...
...HOW TO LURE TASUKE OUT TO THE ROOF ALONE.
IF I ASK TASUKE TO COME, OF COURSE, SHAO, MISS RUUAN AND KIRYUU WILL ALL FOLLOW HIM.
すっ
Ka
T
WHOA!!!
SHAO'S SO CUTE!
NICE JOB! THAT'S CORRECT!!
.....


I'LL COME UP WITH SOME-THING ELSE.
I GIVE UP! I QUIT!
I'M A FAILURE AT LIFE!!
NGH. WHAT AM I DOING? I CAN'T PUT MY GOOD FRIEND IN SUCH DANGER.
AAH...
SO WHYY-YYY!!
...CAN'T I THINK OF ANYTHING?
WHOA.
14 LONG YEARS ON THIS EARTH, AND THIS IS THE FIRST TIME I'VE EVER HAD TO USE MY BRAIN SO HARD...
HEY.

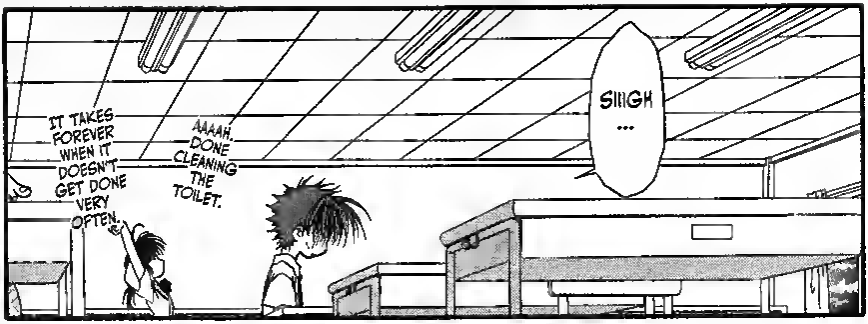
ちら。


OKAY, HE'S ALONE NOW!!!
OH, TASUKE, AFTER YOU THROW OUT THE GARBAGE, DO THIS TOO.
HE'S CUTTING CLEANING DUTY


MASTER TASUKE!
TA--
YOOOO!


THAT'S IT!! I CAN LURE TASUKE AWAY IN THAT SPLIT SECOND WHEN HE'S ALONE...!!
HEY! YOU ALMOST HIT MASTER TAA!
MASTER TASUKE, YOU HAVE AMAZING REFLEXES!

SHA ...
SHAAAO ...
OH SURE
TRASH
UMM ...
CAN I...
...COME WITH YOU?
...DO YOU ALWAYS HAVE TO BE WITH HIM, SHAO?
WHYYY ...
YOU REALLY LIKE TSUKE THAT MUCH?
MEET YOU A PEEPING TOM?


SIIIGH ...
AAAAH. DONE CLEANING THE TOILET.
IT TAKES FOREVER WHEN IT DOESN'T GET DONE VERY OFTEN.

OH, HEY, KIRYUU.
WHERE'S SHAO AND EVERY-ONE?
I'M GOING TO THE ROOF.
WHAT SHOULD I TELL SHOUKO?

NOTHING I CAN DO.
WHAT'S THIS?
THERE'S GARBAGE ON THE FLOOR
I'LL JUST DROP IT.

WHAT IS THAT YOU'RE HOLDING, MISS SHOUKO?
HUH?
YOU MEAN THIS?
JUST SOME TRASH I PICKED UP.

THEY HAVE ALREADY GONE HOME.
I STAYED BEHIND BECAUSE THERE WERE SOME THINGS I NEEDED TO THINK THROUGH.

OOH.
TASUKE.
I WISH YOU'D HURRY UP AND GET HERE. ♡
HEEEY.
TEE HEE. ♡
TASU--
EH? IT'S JUST TAKASHI.
しら
HEY, WHAT'S WITH THE ATTITUDE?

I HAVE TO TALK TO YOU! PULL ME BACK!!
FINE...
WHY ARE YOU CLIMBING UP HERE?!
UPSY DAISY.
H-HEEEY!
STOP IT!!
おし出し!!
I'M WAITING FOR TASUKE!!
I-I-I-I'M GOING TO FALL!!
G-GRRR
UH...
UMM...
WHAT DO YOU NEED TO TALK TO ME ABOUT?
MAKE IT QUICK.
SO...
JUST TELL ME!!
IT'S REALLY HARD FOR ME TO SAY THIS...
ESPECIALLY WHEN YOU'RE STARING AT ME LIKE THAT.

UMM, UH... THAT IS... WHAT IS IT?
SPIT IT OUT!!
TASUKE'S GONNA BE HERE SOON!
YES, WHAT?
UMM...
Y'KNOW ...
BECAUSE IT'S TANABATA.
.....
I HAVEN'T EVEN TOLD TASUKE TO COME, SO HOW WOULD HE KNOW?
HOW CAN YOU...
...TRUST IT SO COMPLETELY?

WHY?!!
THIS HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH YOU, TAKASHI!
MAYBE I'LL...
SHEESH... OKAY...
WHA--!!
...JUST WAIT HERE WITH YOU.
...BUT I'M STILL WORRIED ABOUT YOU!!
MAYBE IT DOESN'T ...
UGH!
DON'T TAKE THAT THE WRONG WAY!!
I'M JUST WORRIED ABOUT YOU AS YOUR UPPERCLASSMAN
DON'T WORRY, I WON'T!!
...!
...WHAT?

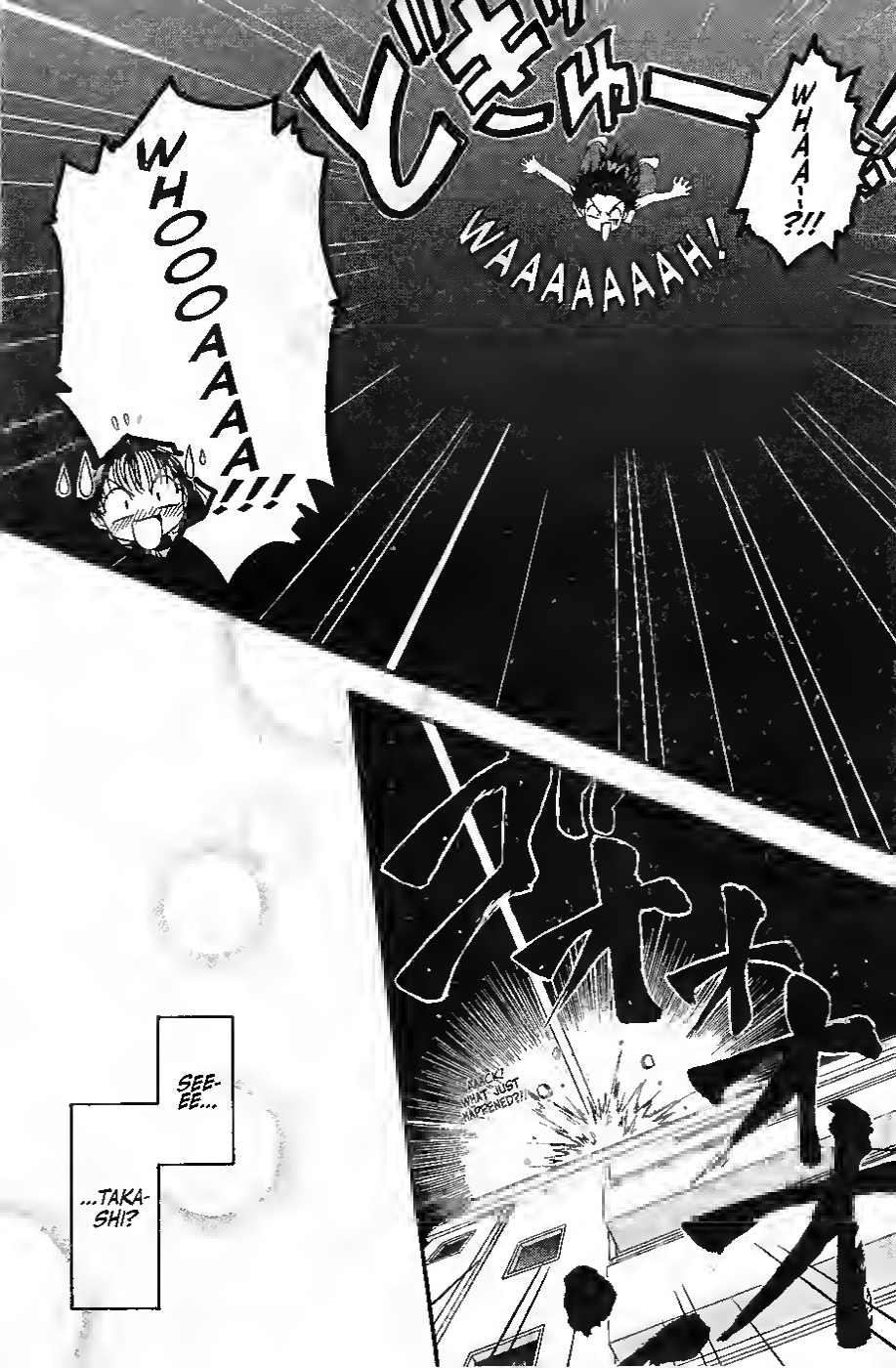
...WHEN I KNOW HE'S NOT GOING TO COME.
I CAN'T GO HOME AND LEAVE HER HERE...
REALLY, YOU'RE SO SELFISH!
HEY, TAKASHI ...
WHAT TIME IS IT?
IT'S 10:30.

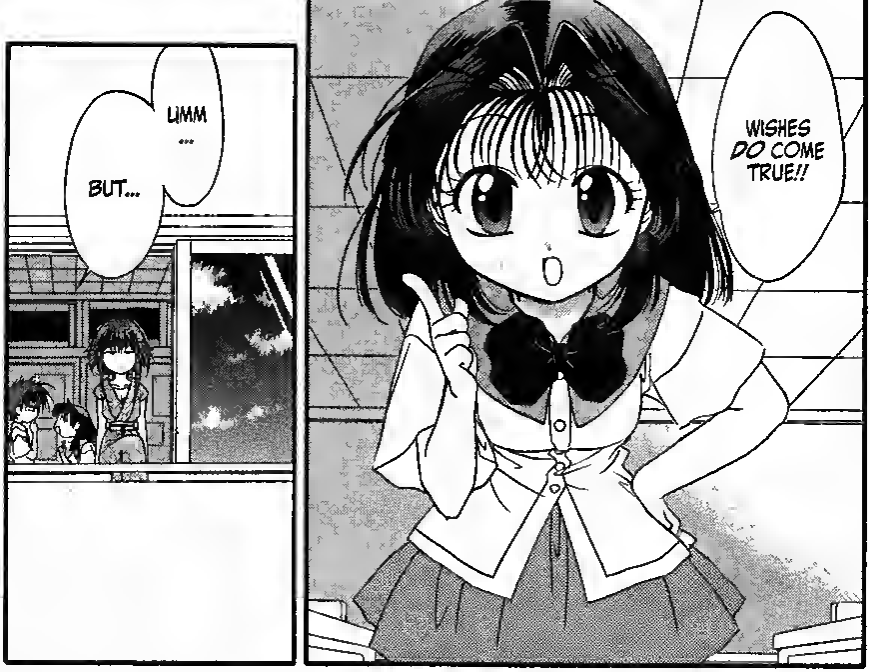
JEEZ...HOW PATHETIC.
I CAN'T EVEN GRANT...
...THE MOST SIMPLE WISH FOR HER.
...LOOK AT THE STARS...
...WAS TO...
ALL KAORI WISHED FOR...

THAT WAS...
PLEASE LET ME LOOK AT THE STARS WITH TSUKE ON TANABATA.
KAORI
...WITH THE PERSON SHE LIKES.
HEY...
...KAORI.
JUST FOR TONIGHT...
****

...YOU CAN...
...THINK OF ME AS TASUKE'S TEMPORARY REPLACE-MENT OR SOMETHING.
OR...
...DOES THAT NOT WORK?
WHAT AM I SAYING?!!!

THAT MIGHT ...
...BE NICE TOO.
ぴと
HUH?!
.....


WHOOOAAAA!!!
どぼぉぉぉ
WAAAAAAAH!
WHAA-?!!
ガボボ
KACK! WHAT JUST HAPPENED?!
SEE-EE...
...TAKA-SHI?

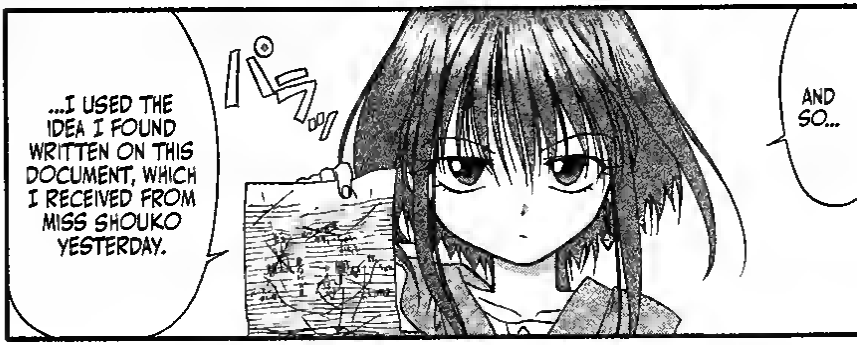

WISHES DO COME TRUE!!
UMM...
BUT...

I WONDER WHY TASUKE RAINED DOWN FROM THE SKY.
YESTERDAY WAS HORRIBLE
THAT'S SO WEIRD
IT'S BECAUSE OF MY WISH!!

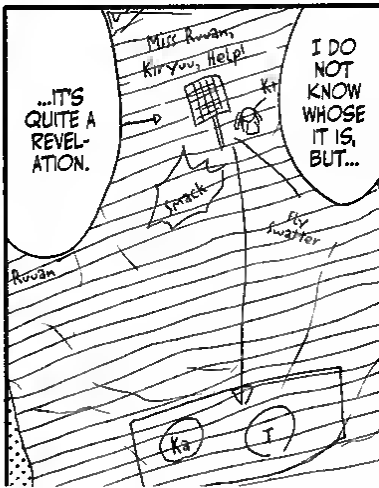
IT WAS NECESSARY TO RAISE THE DIFFICULTY OF THE CHALLENGE...
WHAT?

THE CHALLENGES MY LIEGE HAS BEEN GIVEN WILL NO LONGER HELP HIM GROW.

MY LIEGE EASILY DEFLECTED THE SURPRISE ATTACK FROM MR. TAKASHI.
M-MY SURPRISE ATTACK?

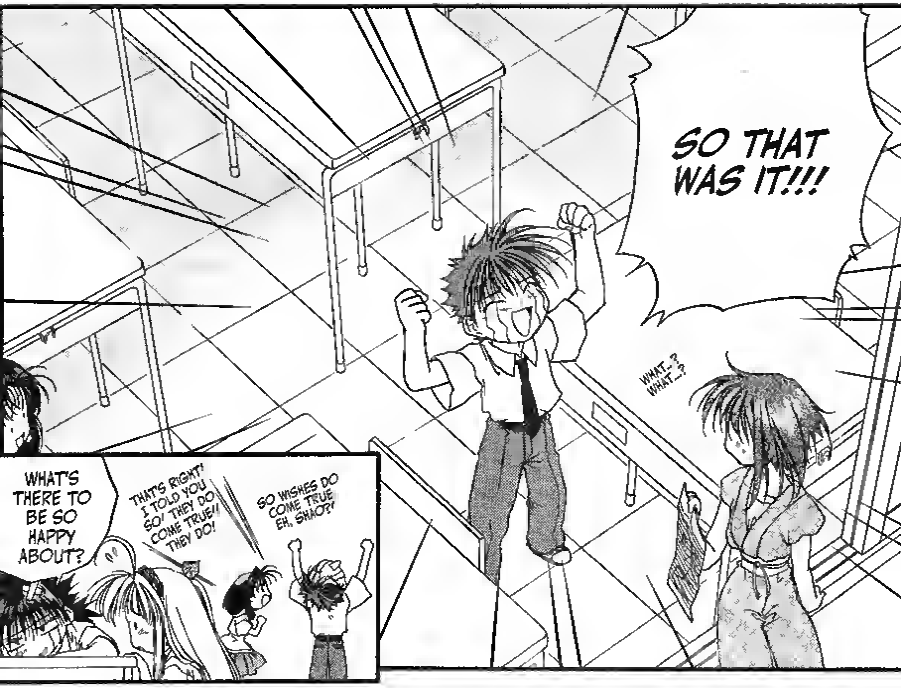

...I USED THE IDEA I FOUND WRITTEN ON THIS DOCUMENT, WHICH I RECEIVED FROM MISS SHOUKO YESTERDAY.
パラ...
AND SO...

.....
THAT'S SOME SLOPPY HANDWRITING.


...IT'S QUITE A REVELATION.
I DO NOT KNOW WHOSE IT IS, BUT...
Miss Ruwan, Kiryuu, Help!
Ruwan
Ka
I

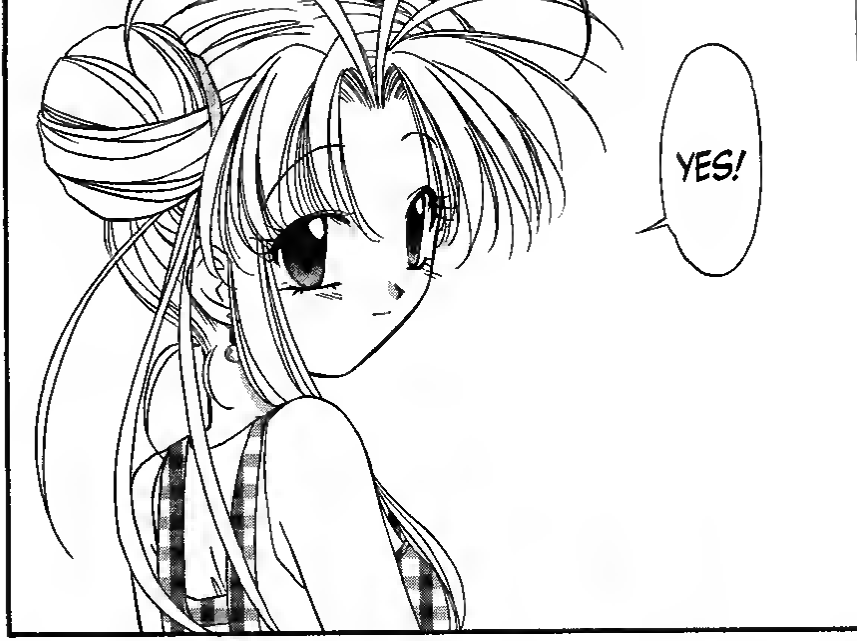
THAT MEANS... I DID GRANT KAORI'S WISH (IF INDIRECTLY)!!!
SO...KIRYUU MADE MY PLAN WORK!

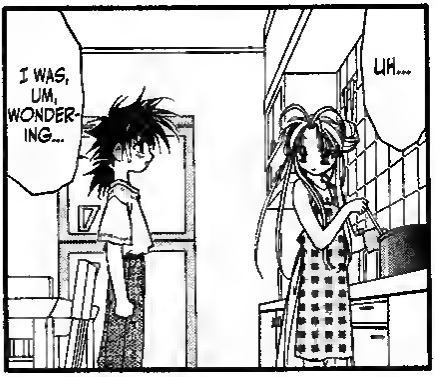
THAT'S THE PAPER I THREW AWAY YESTERDAY!
THAT WAS MY "OPERATION: LURE TASUKE UP TO THE ROOF." OR SHOULD I SAY, "OPERATION: BLAST TASUKE TO THE ROOF!"

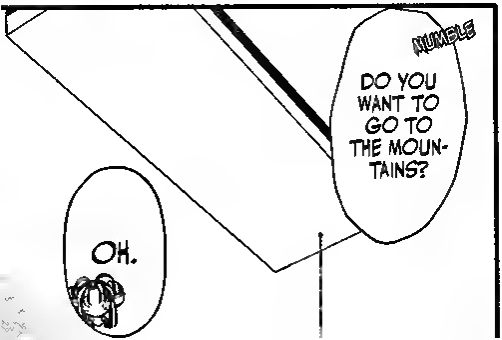

SO THAT WAS IT!!!
WHAT...? WHAT...?
WHAT'S THERE TO BE SO HAPPY ABOUT?
THAT'S RIGHT! I TOLD YOU SO! THEY DO COME TRUE!! THEY DO!
SO WISHES DO COME TRUE, EH, SHAO?

CHAPTER 47
SUMMER IN THE MOUNTAINS... (PART ONE)

SUMMER VACAAATION.
IT'S ALMOST DINNER TIIME.
TONIGHT WE'RE HAVING CREAM STEW INSTEAD OF CHINESE FOOOOD.
I HOPE IT'S NOT TOO HOT FOR SOUP...
SHAO.


YES!


I WAS, UM, WONDER-ING...
UH...


NUMBLE
DO YOU WANT TO GO TO THE MOUN-TAINS?
OH.

I HAVEN'T SEEN MISS SHOUKO AND EVERYONE IN SO LONG BECAUSE IT'S SUMMER VACATION. IT'D BE GREAT TO GO ON VACATION WITH EVERYONE AGAIN THIS--
OOH, NO, NO!
NO. THAT... THAT'S NOT IT...
C'MON, TASUKE, DON'T GIVE UP!
WOW!
THE MOUN-TAINS? I'D LOVE TO GO! ♡
UM, WHAT I MEAN IS...
UMM...
WOULD YOU...
...LIKE TO GO TO THE MOUN-TAINS...
...WITH ME? JUST THE TWO OF US?

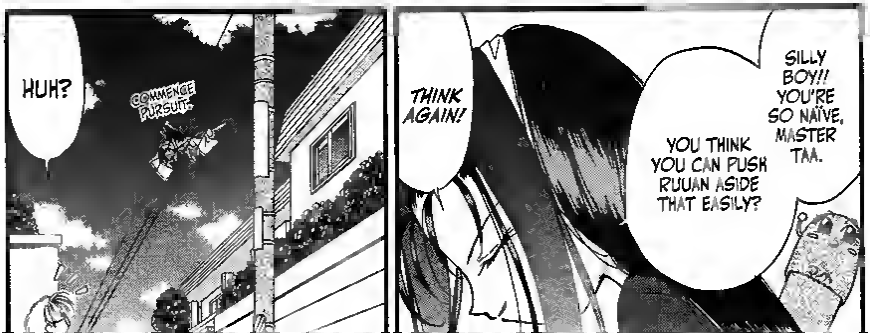
I STAYED UP...
...ALL NIGHT THINKING ABOUT THIS.
NNGH.
THE PROBLEM IS...
...AS LONG AS RUUAN AND KIRYUU ARE HERE...
...IT'S IMPOSSIBLE FOR ME TO GET ANY TIME IN THE HOUSE ALONE WITH SHAO.
IMPOSSIBLE!
DID RISHU DRAW MISS RUUAN AND EVERYONE GOOD?

EVEN WHEN WE'RE NOT HOME.
DON'T YOU THINK I DREW THE TOWN PRETTY?
IF I INVITE SHAO TO GO SHOPPING...
...WE'D JUST RUN INTO SOMEONE ANYWAY.
INEVITABLE
SIGH...
I WANT TO DO SOMETHING...
...SO WE CAN BE ALONE TOGETHER.
MASTER TASUKEEE LOOOOK!!
I MADE UP MY MIND...
—BACK WHEN THE RAIN STOPPED
WHAT DID...
...SHOUKO SAY WOULD HAPPEN...
...IF YOU DIDN'T TALK TO ANYONE ELSE UNTIL THE RAIN STOPPED?
WHEN SUMMER COMES ...

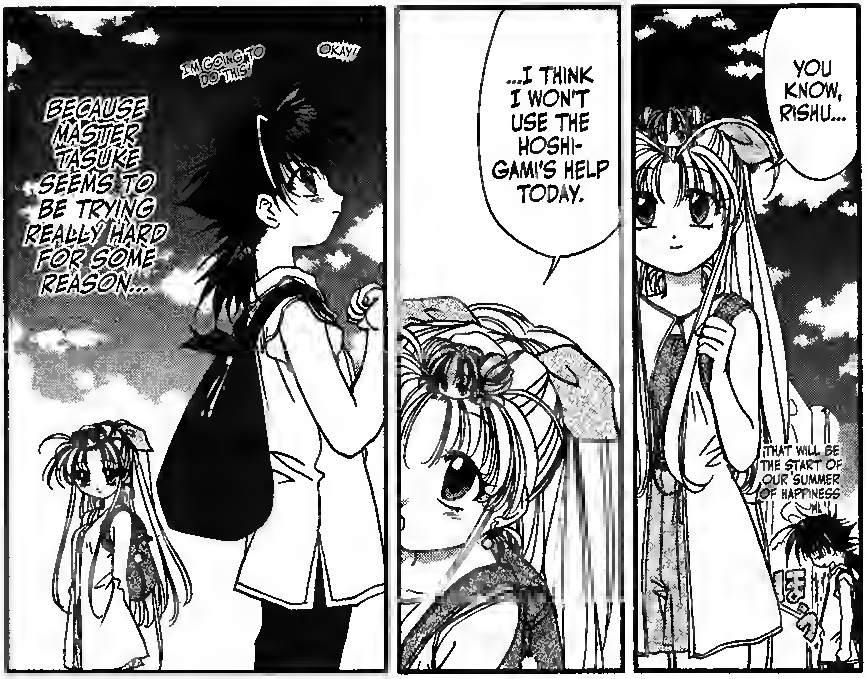
I WILL!
I'M JUST GOING TO COME OUT AND SAY IT! "I LIKE YOU, SHAO!!"
SHE SAID...
...WE'D BE UNBELIEVABLY HAPPY THAT SUMMER.
.....
UH...
...I'D ...
...TELL HER HOW I FEEL.
THE MOUNTAINS... EH...?
HMM...IT MIGHT BE A GOOD IDEA
I MIGHT GET A CHANCE TO BE WITH HER
MASTER UKEEE, MY WITH MEGE!
SHAO.

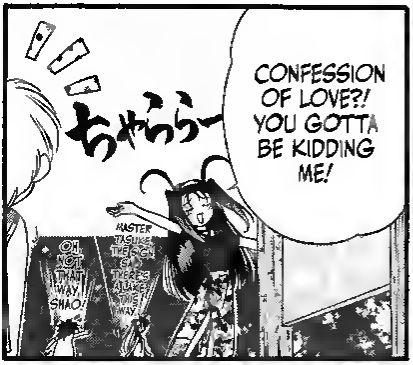
I...
I LIKE YOU, SHAO!!
UMM, YOU KNOW ...
...I'VE WANTED TO SAY THIS FOR A WHILE, BUT...
YES?
...THE BLINDING SUN WOULD SET ON ME AND SHAO WHILE WE'RE ALONE TOGETHER.
MASTER TASUKE..
AT THE TOP OF A SMALL MOUNTAIN, WITH NOTHING BUT NATURE ALL AROUND...
A NICE IDEA, IF I DO SAY SO MYSELF
IT'S PERFECT, ISN'T IT?
N——ICE!
RISHU IS BORED!
MASTER TASUKEEE!

*I HATE IT WHEN IT'S HOT," SAYS KIRYUU

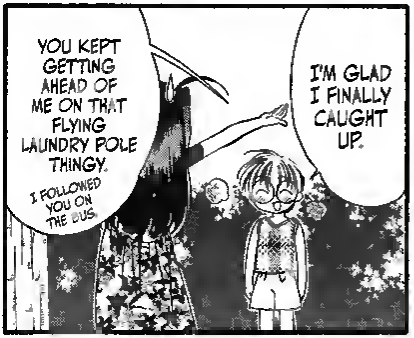


OKAY!! WE'VE MADE IT THIS FAR! NOW THE BALL'S IN MY COURT!
HELLO!!
HELLO!
WOW!
IT'S SO NICE OUT HERE. ♡
HEAD FOR THE SUM-MIT!!
WELCOME TO IZUMIGA
TOP
AND ONCE WE'RE THERE...
AREN'T YOU HAPPY IT'S SUCH A NICE DAY?
IZ
(LAKE)
SHAO...
TODAY I'M GOING TO TELL YOU HOW I FEEL!!


YOU KNOW, RISHU...
...I THINK I WON'T USE THE HOSHI-GAMI'S HELP TODAY.
OKAY!
I'M GOING TO DO THIS!
BECAUSE MASTER TASUKE SEEMS TO BE TRYING REALLY HARD FOR SOME REASON...
IT'S ALL RIGHT IF I...
...RELY ON MASTER TASU-KE...
...A LITTLE, ISN'T IT?
I THINK IT'S ALL RIGHT EVERY ONCE IN A WHILE.
COME ON, SHAO. IT LOOKS LIKE WE'GO STRAIGHT UP THIS ROAD.
YES.
OK.


CONFESSION OF LOVE?! YOU GOTTA BE KIDDING ME!
ちゃらら～
OH NO! THAT WAY! SHAO!
MASTER TAA! THERE'S A CLIFF THAT WAY!

HEH HEH.
YOU'LL NEVER MAKE IT TO THE SUMMIT, MASTER TAA.

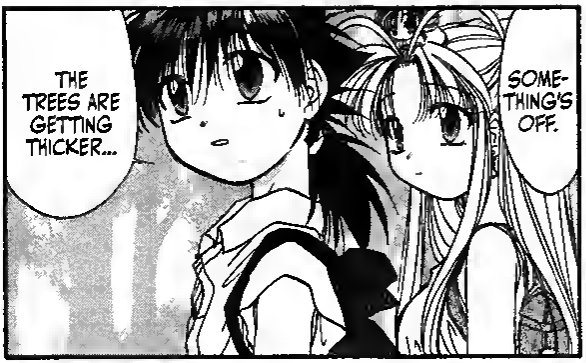

I'M GLAD I FINALLY CAUGHT UP.
YOU KEPT GETTING AHEAD OF ME ON THAT FLYING LAUNDRY POLE THINGY.
I FOLLOWED YOU ON THE BUS.

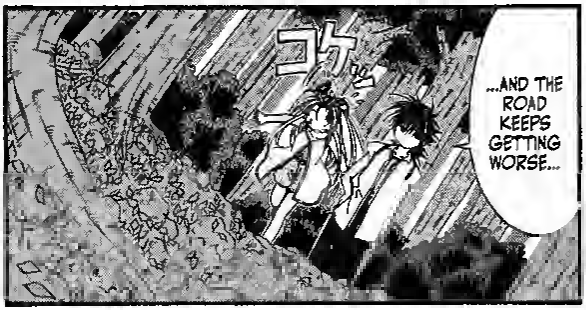
OH, BUT... I'LL GO BACK IF I'M IN THE WAY.
NO... I CAN USE HIM...

WHY... ARE YOU HERE?
I DON'T REALLY HAVE A REASON, MISS RUUAN, BUT I HAVEN'T SEEN YOU IN SO LONG AND...

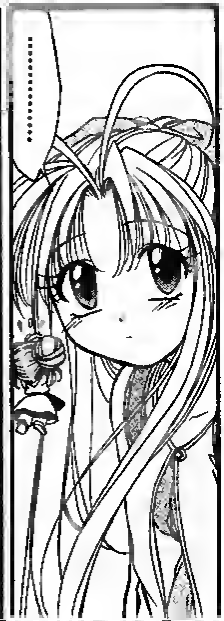
.....
OH, THE BIRDS ARE SO CUTE!
HOW SHOULD I BRING IT UP?
THE ROAD SPLITS UP HERE.
MASTER TASUKE.
FIRST I'LL SAY SOMETHING LIKE "THIS IS NICE I LIKE GETTING TO SPEND TIME ALONE WITH YOU"...
...AND THEN I'LL JUST SUBTLY SLIP IT IN.
DANGER
SUMMIT
HUH?!
UH, YEAH...
THE SIGN SAYS THE SUMMIT IS THIS WAY.

SIGH.
HUMPH.
NO CONFESSING OF LOVE AT THE SUMMIT, MASTER TAA.
KOICHIROU, PUT THE SIGN BACK THE RIGHT WAY. WE'RE GOING AFTER THEM.
YES!!
SUMMIT
YOU CAN HAVE YOUR CONFESSION OF LOVE ANYWHERE. IT DOESN'T HAVE TO BE AT THE SUMMIT, YOU KNOW.
BUT NO MATTER WHERE YOU GO, RUUAN WILL BE THERE TO STOP IT!
SIGH... SO ME.
OH, THE FLOWERS ARE SO PRETTY!
LET'S GO IN UP THE MOUNTAIN WITH MISS RUUAN.

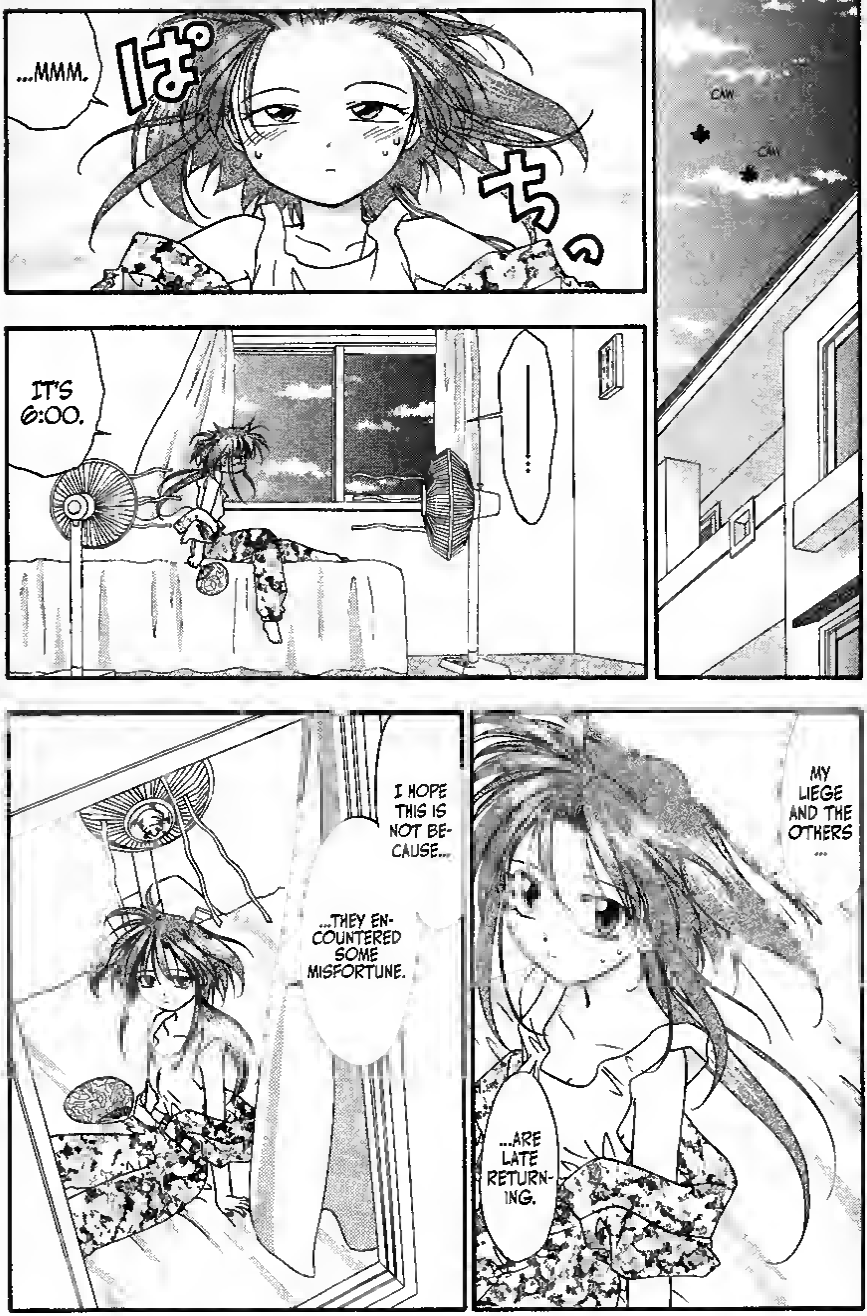

THE TREES ARE GETTING THICKER...
SOME-THING'S OFF.


コケ
...AND THE ROAD KEEPS GETTING WORSE...

?


.....

KOICHIROU, THROW THEM...A SNAKE.
UH...OOH GOOD THINKING
WHAT?!
WHOA, WHAT IS THAT? WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!!!
ARGH, THEY KEEP FLIRTING!!
I-I'M SORRY!!
I DIDN'T WANT US TO GET SEPARATED.
HOLD ON TO MY ARM.
THEN FIND SOME!!
THEN, HEY, HERE.
TH-THIS IS...
...KIND OF NICE.


...MMM.
ぱ
ちっ
CAW
CAW
IT'S 6:00.
!
I HOPE THIS IS NOT BECAUSE...
...THEY ENCOUNTERED SOME MISFORTUNE.
MY LIEGE AND THE OTHERS ...
...ARE LATE RETURNING.

I THINK...
...WE TOOK THE WRONG ROAD.
SHAO
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
YES.
I'M FINE.
IF WE KEEP WALKING, WE'LL JUST GET MORE LOST.
LET'S TAKE A BREAK AND REST FOR A BIT.
すとん

MISS RUUAN!
I LOOKED FOR YOU.
WHY HAVE YOU STAYED OUT SO LATE?
UCC COFFEE
JUST A LITTLE MIS-DIRECTION. NO BIG DEAL.
HE KEEPS ON MAKING DANGER-OUS MISTAKES!
MISS RUUAN, FOR YOU, ME DO ANYTHING!
REAL-LY...
THAT SHAORIN.

I CAN'T...
...BELIEVE HER. SHE'S SO PASSIVE!!
WHY...
...DON'T YOU USE THE...
...SHITENRIN?

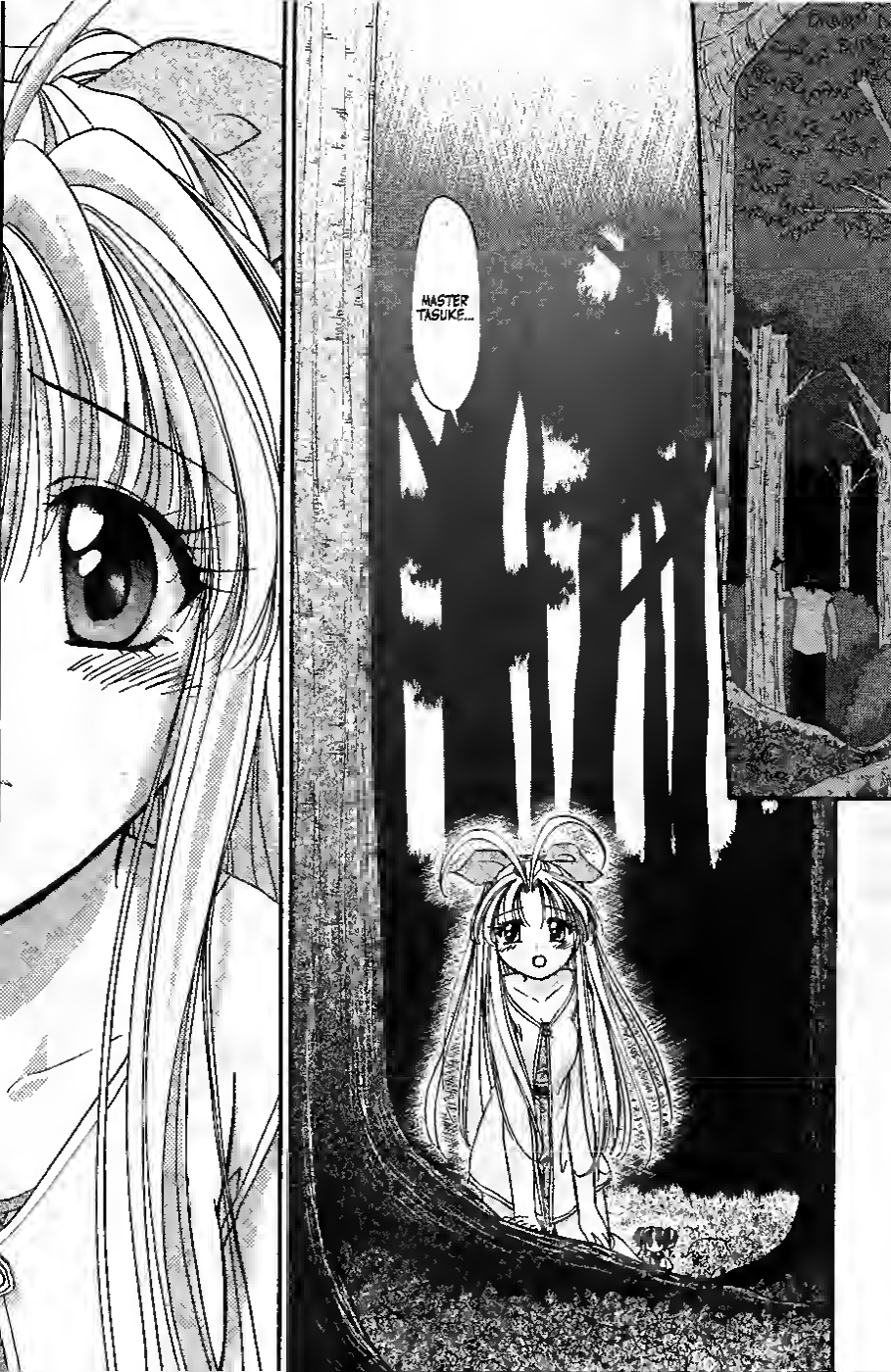
HEY...
...SHAO.
IT'S GOT-TEN...
...REALLY LATE...AND DARK.
Y--
YES!
OH...
IT HAS...
...HASN'T IT?
YES.
UMM, YOU KNOW...
...WE...

...MIGHT NOT...
...BE ABLE TO GET OUT OF HERE BY OURSELVES.
BUT...
...UM...
...EVEN SO, I...

I'M SORRY !!
TH-THAT'S WHY, WELL, WHAT I MEAN IS...
...UMM...
HUH!..?
I'M SORRY, MASTER TASUKE.
IF KENEN WERE HERE, HE COULD TAKE US HOME, BUT...
...I...
UMM...

I'M...
...THE WORST.
HUH?
I FORGOT IT AT HOME!!
THE SHITEN-RIN...

IS THAT WHAT'S BOTHERING HER?
IT'S OKAY. IT'S NOT THAT.
.....
.....
SHE THINKS IT'S HER FAULT...
...WE'RE STUCK UP HERE.
I'LL...
...GO LOOK AROUND A BIT.
I GUESS NOW...
...IS NOT THE RIGHT TIME.
WAIT HERE, SHAO.
WHA...?


MASTER TASUKE...

RISHU...
...DO YOU THINK MASTER TASUKE'S MAD?
I'M...
...SUPPOSED TO PROTECT HIM, BUT...
...I SAID I FORGOT THE SHITENRIN...
...SO I'M USELESS.
DO YOU THINK THAT'S WHAT HE'S THINKING?
MASTER TASUKE...

...WANTED TO DEPEND...
...ON YOU.
I JUST...
SAY...
...MISS RUUAN.

REFER TO CHAPTER 44

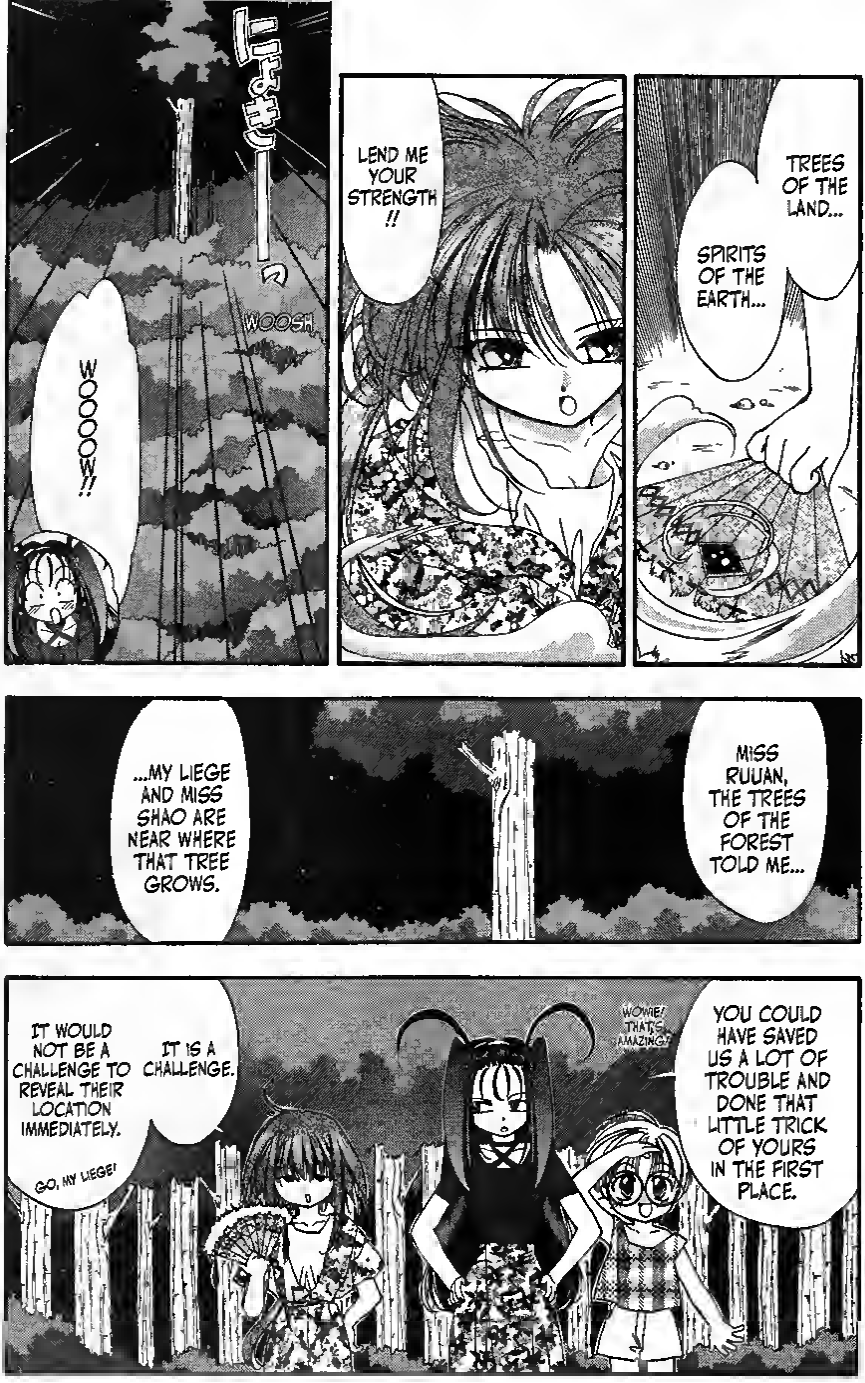
MISS RUUAN, YOU ARE NEUROTIC IN THE STRANGEST WAYS.
BESIDES, THAT'S RUDE TO KOKA
SHAORIN'S LITTLE CRETIN SWALLOWED IT!!
EEEK!!!
ばっちーなんかありゃしないっ!!

YOU WOULDN'T BELIEVE HOW DISGUSTING IT IS!!

YOUR VOICE IS QUITE LOUD, MISS RUUAN...
YOU'RE DISTURBING THE ANIMALS
MASTER TAAA!! WHERE'D YOU GO?!!
DRAT! IT'D BE JUST A HOP, SKIP AND A JUMP IF I HAD IT TOO!

IT LOOKS VACANT.
THIS IS PROBABLY A HUNTER'S SHACK.
WE CAN STAY HERE TONIGHT.
IT'S BETTER THAN SLEEPING OUTSIDE, RIGHT?
THIS WILL WORK.
WAIT...
WHOA!!
S-SLEEPING A-A-ALONE WITH S-S-SHAO!

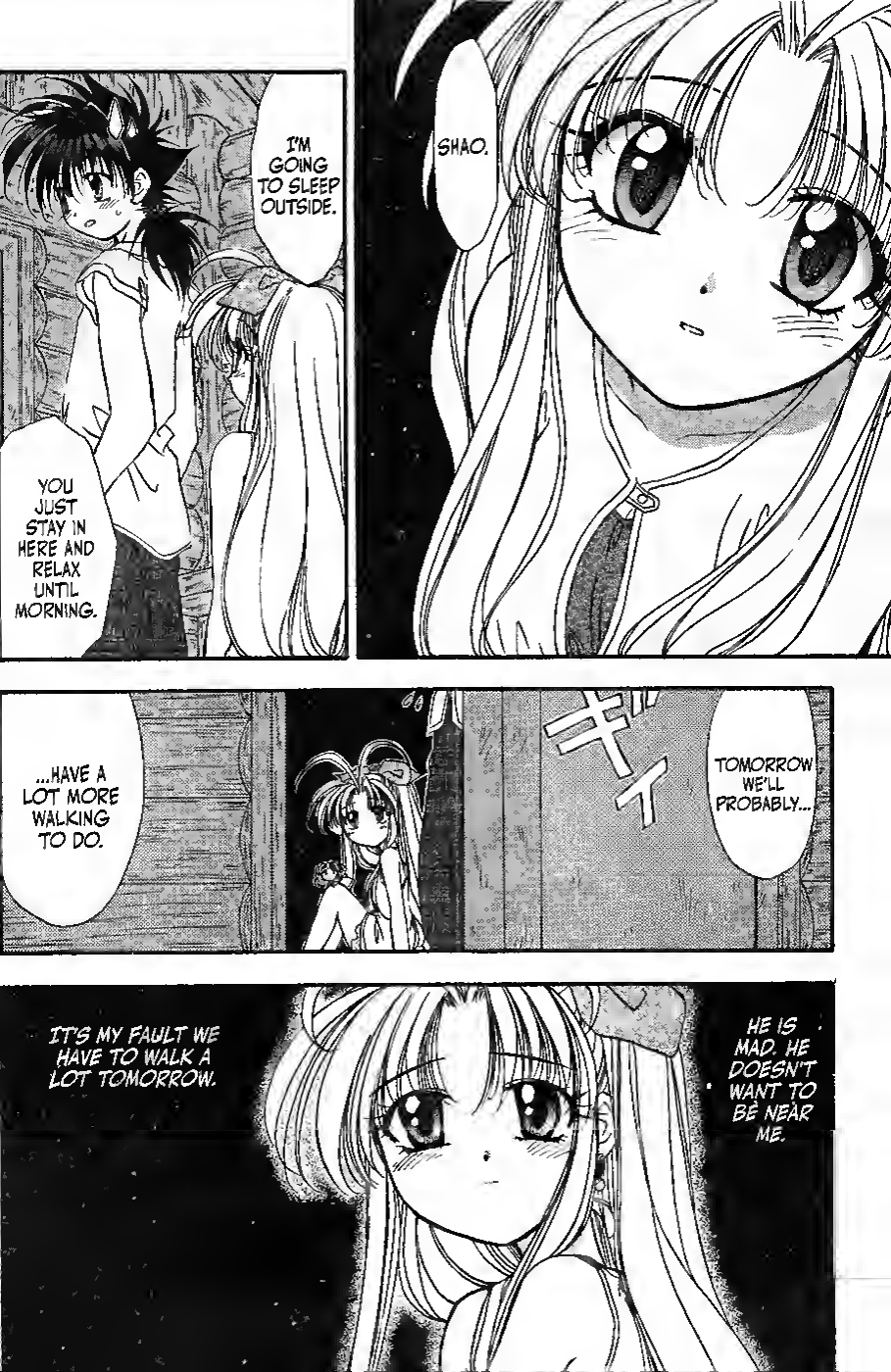
CHAPTER 48
SUMMER IN THE MOUNTAINS... (PART TWO)

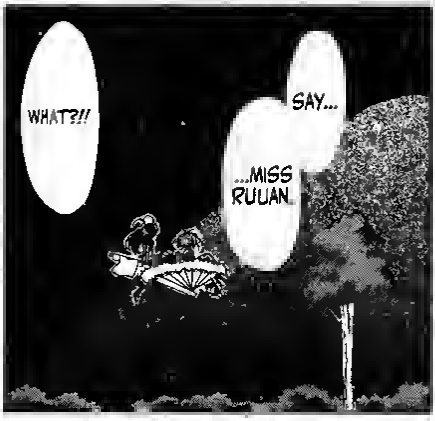

WOOOOW!!
WOOSH
LEND ME YOUR STRENGTH !!
TREES OF THE LAND...
SPIRITS OF THE EARTH...
...MY LIEGE AND MISS SHAO ARE NEAR WHERE THAT TREE GROWS.
MISS RUUAN, THE TREES OF THE FOREST TOLD ME...
IT WOULD NOT BE A CHALLENGE TO REVEAL THEIR LOCATION IMMEDIATELY.
IT IS A CHALLENGE.
GO, MY LIEGE!
WOW!! THAT'S AMAZING!
YOU COULD HAVE SAVED US A LOT OF TROUBLE AND DONE THAT LITTLE TRICK OF YOURS IN THE FIRST PLACE.

...THERE BEFORE?
WAS THAT HUGE TREE...
HUH?
SHAO...
SHAO!

OH.
NO.
ARE YOU TIRED?
I'M...
...FINE.
...IN THE MOUNTAINS.
ALL ALONE IN A CABIN...
.....
SIGH...
...SIGHING ALL SEXY-LIKE...!!
...SITTING IN FRONT OF ME...
AND SHE'S WEARING SUCH A SKIMPY DRESS...
IDOT

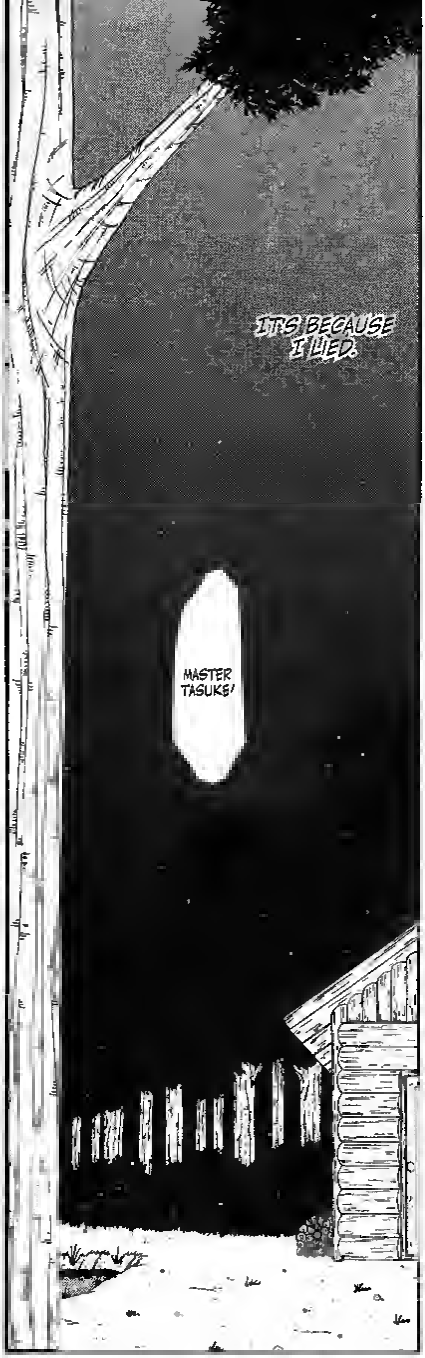
MAN MUST USE HIS REASON.
DAD..
WHAT'S WRONG, MASTER TAGUKE?
BUT...
.....
...A MAN AFTER ALL...
...DAD.
OH, DAD.
I AM...


I'M GOING TO SLEEP OUTSIDE.
YOU JUST STAY IN HERE AND RELAX UNTIL MORNING.
SHAO.
TOMORROW WE'LL PROBABLY...
ギィ
...HAVE A LOT MORE WALKING TO DO.
IT'S MY FAULT WE HAVE TO WALK A LOT TOMORROW.
HE IS MAD. HE DOESN'T WANT TO BE NEAR ME.


WHAT?!!
SAY...
...MISS RUUAN.

I FEEL SORRY FOR MR. KOICHI-ROU.
YOU MADE HIM HELP YOU AND THEN YOU JUST DUMPED HIM LIKE SO.

...LEAVE HIM IN THE SAFEST PLACE.
OH, BUT I DID...
ANYWAY, HE'D JUST GET IN THE WAY IF HE'D COME WITH HIM ALONG.


IT'S BECAUSE I LIED.
MASTER TASUKE!

HIS PARENTS ARE PROBABLY WORRIED ABOUT HIM TOO.
DON'T LEAVE ME HERE, MISS RUUAN!!
WAAH!
DON'T WORRY! I'LL PICK HIM UP LATER.
I'LL...
...SLEEP OUTSIDE!
MASTER TASUKE.

BUT I CAN'T LET YOU SLEEP OUTSIDE, MASTER TASUKE.
WHAT? THAT'S OKAY.
IT'S DANGEROUS...
WHY...?
YOU ARE...
...MY MASTER.
WHY IS IT THAT...
...EVERY TIME I TRY TO GET CLOSER...
...TO PROTECT YOU.
IT IS MY DUTY...

PLEASE DON'T FORGET.
OKAY?
BECAUSE I'M A SHUGO-GETTEN.
...YOU PUT UP A WALL WITH THOSE WORDS?
ANY-WAY...
...I CAN'T LET YOU BE ALONE IN THE MOUN-TAINS AT NIGHT.
ガチャ
THE WORK OF THE URINGUN
WHAT'S GOING ON?
NOW OPEN
ドン
ドン
ドン
H-HUH?
ガチャ
ガチャ
ガチャ

I...
WHAT AM I DOING?
SO MAYBE I SHOULD TELL MASTER TASUKE THE TRUTH...
...AND WE'LL GO HOME.
BUT...
...HAD A LOT OF FUN TODAY.
I ALREADY ...
.....
I WANTED HIM TO TELL ME WHAT THIS GLOOMY FEELING IS.
...I REALLY WANT...
...TO STAY WITH HIM LONGER.
I'LL THINK ABOUT IT FOR A LITTLE WHILE FIRST.
MASTER TASUKE HOW'D YOU LITTLE BIG?!
すと。

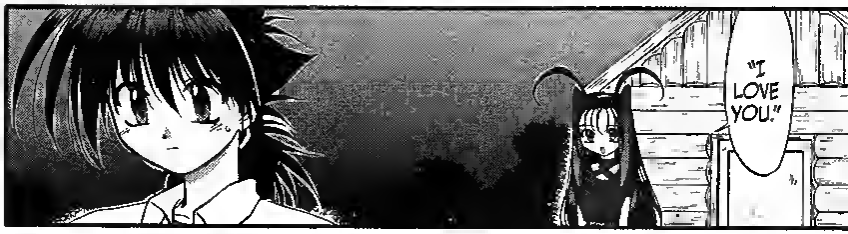
...WON'T IT OPEEEEEN ?!!
WHY...
OH, GIMME A BREAK!!!
WHA--?!!
THAT BOARD SHOULD'VE FALLEN
WAAAH. THAT VOICE. RUUANNNN?
OH... THANK YOU FOR OPENING IT, I-THINK.
ARE...
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT, MASTER TAA?

KENEN.
LET'S GO...
OOOH, I WAS SO WORRIED! REALLY, MASTER TTA, YOU...
LET GO, STUPID!!
.....
ぴょん

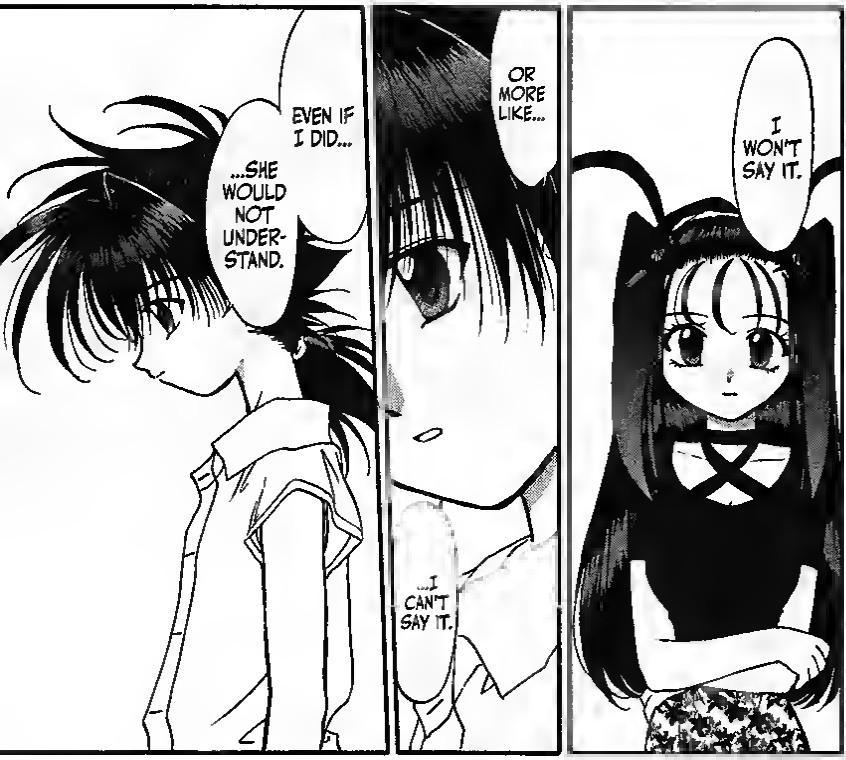
BUT...
...I THINK MY LIEGE HAS BECOME SKILLED ENOUGH.
MISS SHAO...
IT MUST BE HARD FOR YOU.
I THOUGHT WE WOULD ALL GO HOME TOGETHER, BUT...
THIS WILL BE TODAY'S CHALLENGE.
...THE CHALLENGE WILL BEGIN NOW.
HE SHALL SURMOUNT IT.
OKAAY
MISS RISHU, PLEASE TAKE CARE OF MY LIEGE.
THAT IS WHY YOU STAYED BEHIND, IS IT NOT?
LEAVE MISS SHAO TO ME.

I'M GOING TO LOOK FOR SHAO.
IT'S TOO DANGEROUS FOR HER TO BE OUT HERE ALONE.
PLUS, SHE DOESN'T HAVE THE SHITENNIN

MASTER TAO!!
WHERE ARE YOU GOING?


"I LOVE YOU."

IS THAT WHAT YOU'RE GOING TO SAY?
TO SHAORIN?

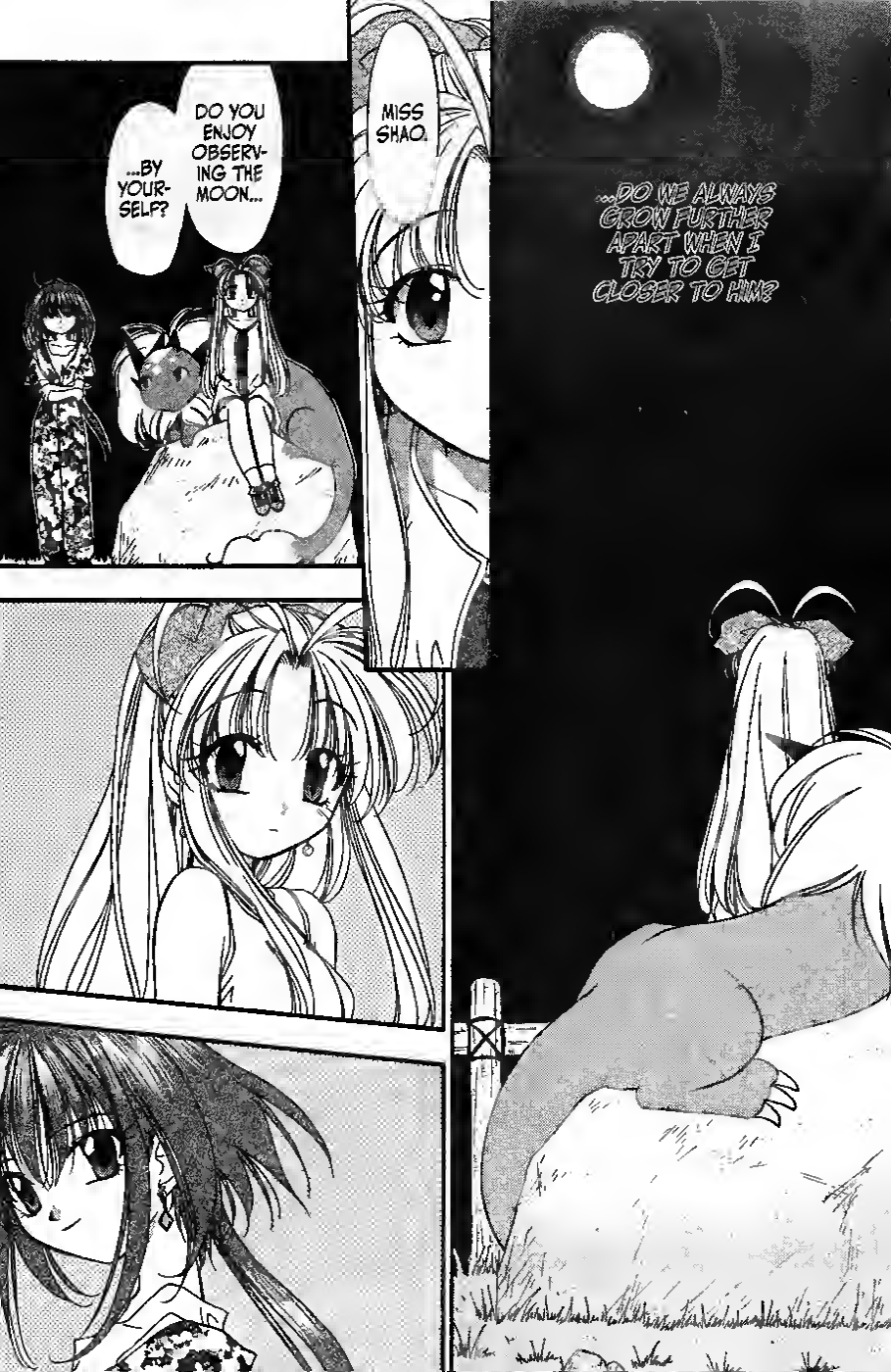

I WON'T SAY IT.
OR MORE LIKE...
...I CAN'T SAY IT.
EVEN IF I DID...
...SHE WOULD NOT UNDER-STAND.

WHY...?

WHY DO YOU THINK THAT?
ALL YOU HAVE TO DO IS TALK TO HER TO MAKE HER UNDERSTAND.
...THAT SHE DOESN'T UNDER-STAND.
IT'S BECAUSE YOU DON'T SAY ANY-THING...
...DON'T YOU UNDERSTAND THAT?
WHY...

...TO BE HAPPY.
YOU HAVE THE MEANS...
I UNDERSTAND IT.
OH RUUAN YOU'RE SUCH A MEANIE NOT TO TELL HIM...
I'M PRETTY MUCH A FAILURE AS A KITTEN

...SUPPOSED TO COME HERE WITH MASTER TASUKE.
I WAS...
THE SUMMIT ...
WHY...
SO WHY AM I...
...SITTING HERE ALONE?


...DO WE ALWAYS GROW FURTHER APART WHEN I TRY TO GET CLOSER TO HIM?
MISS SHAO.
DO YOU ENJOY OBSERV-ING THE MOON...
...BY YOUR-SELF?

...SHAAAO!
Yuuuuu...
SHE COULD NOT HAVE GOTTEN FAR...
...WITHOUT THE SHITENRIN.
SIGH...
I HOPE SHE'S OKAY!!
WHAT SHOULD I DO?
SHAO?
WHAT IF IT'S WORSE OR WORSE?

R-RISHU!!
ぽてっ
WAAAH! I'M TIRED
はな
YOU...
...GOT LEFT BEHIND TOO?!
WHERE DID...
...SHAO GO?
I SHOULD'VE GOT LEFT BEHIND, TOO, THANK YOU.
I LIED.
I TOLD MASTER TASUKE
LEFT THE SHITENRIN AT HOME.

I...
I LIED TO MY MAS-TER.
...I WANTED ...
...WANTED TO DEPEND ON HIM, AND...
BECAUSE I...
BUT...
SO I DIDN'T TELL HIM.
...IN A DIFFERENT WAY.
...TO SPEND MORE TIME WITH HIM...

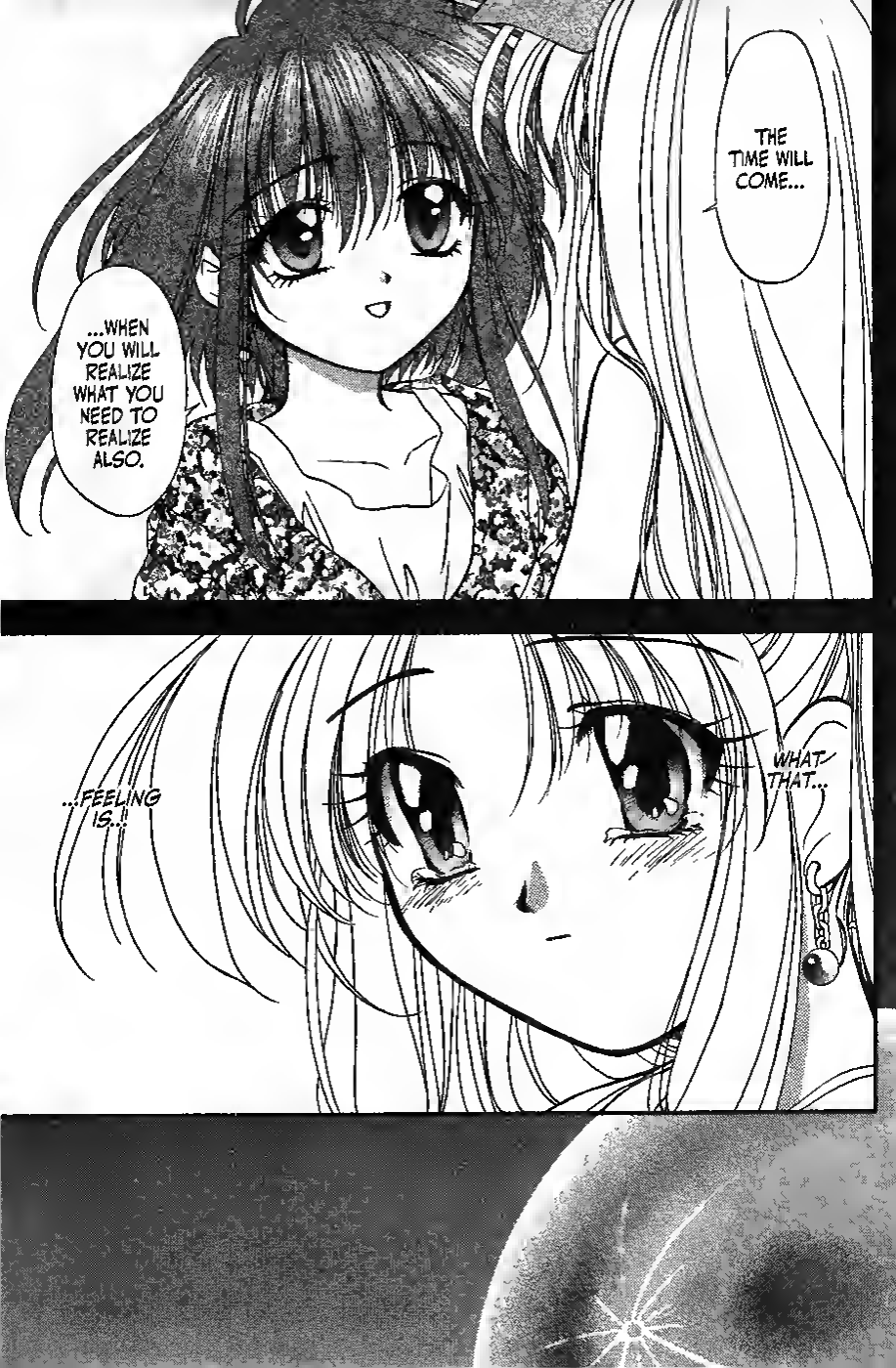
...I...
...AM SUPPOSED TO PROTECT HIM...
WHAT SHOULD ...
...I DO, MISS KIRYUU?

...TO GET CLOSER TO YOU?
WHAT SHOULD I DO...
MISS SHAO.

"THIS PLACE ..."
"...IS SO HAPPY, IT'S ALMOST ..."
"...TOO GOOD FOR US."
I HAVE A MES-SAGE...
...FROM MISS RUUAN.
MISS SHAO.

MISS RUUAN SAID...
"I LEARNED SOMETHING FROM BEING IN THIS PLACE"
TING AHEAD OF ME ON THAT FLYING THING!
"IT'S NICE TO SERVE YOUR MASTERS, BUT IT'S NICE TO BE CHASED AROUND TOO."
I TOO LEARNED ...

...IT'S MORE EFFECTIVE FOR BOTH OF US...
...IF WE WORK TOGETHER, RIGHT?
YES...
I THINK YOU'RE RIGHT.
THAT EVEN I...
...HAVE THE POWER TO BE USEFUL TO SOMEONE.
NOT DISLIKED...
...BUT NEEDED.
IT IS POSSIBLE FOR SOMEONE TO THINK OF ME THAT WAY.
THAT IS WHY...
...IT IS ALL RIGHT.


THE TIME WILL COME...
...WHEN YOU WILL REALIZE WHAT YOU NEED TO REALIZE ALSO.
WHAT THAT...
...FEELING IS...

...MY LIEGE...
...WILL TEACH YOU.
COME ON!!
MISTER! SUKI CALM DOWN!
SHAAAO, WHERE ARE YOU?!!!
MISOFUJIN! YOU'RE MEEEEAN!!

CHAPTER 49
SUMMER IN THE MOUNTAINS... (PART THREE)

...SHAO TO BE HAPPY.
AND...
...BEFORE THE RAINY SEASON STARTED..

...AM I HERE?
WHY...
THIS ISN'T HOW IT...
...WAS SUP-POSED TO TURN OUT.
...TO BE SEPARATED FROM SHAO ON A MOUNTAIN LIKE THIS.
MY PLAN WAS NOT ...
I JUST WANTED..

...THAT'S WHAT...
...SHOU-KO...
...TOLD SHAO.
OHNO
WHERE IS RISHU?
HUH?
MASTER TASUKE'S VOICE?!
REALLY.

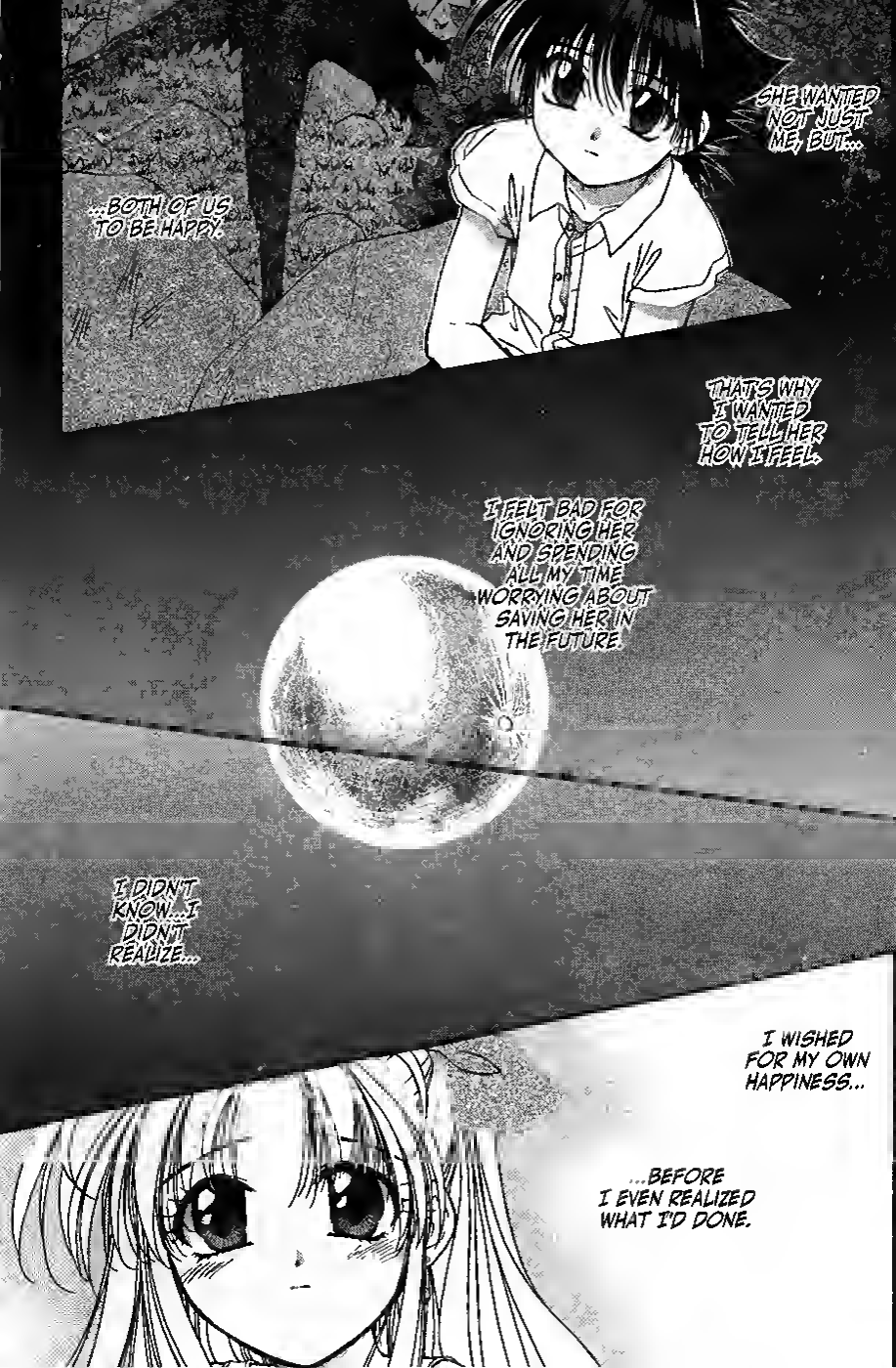
...WILL BE-COME...
...UNBELIEV-ABLY HAPPY THAT SUM-MER!!
BEFORE THE FIRST RAIN OF THE RAINY SEASON ENDS...
I DON'T KNOW WHETHER TO CALL SHOUKO A MEDDLER OR WHAT, BUT...
...SHE'S JUST WEIRD, ISN'T SHE?
...TWO PEOPLE WHO TALKED ONLY TO EACH OTHER...
BUT...
...THANKS TO HER INTERFER-ENCE...
...I LEARNED SOME-THING.
SHAO...
...IS STARTING TO THINK SHE'D LIKE TO BECOME...
...HAPPY.

SHE DIDN'T SEEM TO THINK OF HERSELF AT ALL.
I WANT YOU...
...TO BE HAPPY...
BEFORE ...
...SHE ONLY WANTED ME TO BE HAPPY.

...IF YOU TALK TO SOMEONE ELSE...
THE RAIN'S NOT OVER YET SO...
...WHAT SHOUKO TOLD HER BECAUSE ...

WE'D BE UNBELIEVABLY HAPPY THAT SUMMER.
SHE SAID THAT...
SO...
...SHE MUST HAVE TRIED TO DO...

...RIGHT?
...SHE FELT THAT...
...SHE WANTED TO BECOME HAPPY.
...THE HAPPINESS WILL GET AWAY.


SHE WANTED NOT JUST ME, BUT...
...BOTH OF US TO BE HAPPY.
THAT'S WHY I WANTED TO TELL HER HOW I FEEL.
I FELT BAD FOR IGNORING HER AND SPENDING ALL MY TIME WORRYING ABOUT SAVING HER IN THE FUTURE.
I DIDN'T KNOW...I DIDN'T REALIZE...
I WISHED FOR MY OWN HAPPINESS...
...BEFORE I EVEN REALIZED WHAT I'D DONE.

I'M A SHUGOGETTEN, BUT...
...I'VE BEEN SELFISH.
MISS KIRYUU.
LET'S GO BACK...
... HOME.
WHAT IS IT...
I'LL GO GET...
...MASTER TASUKE.
THAT I WANT?

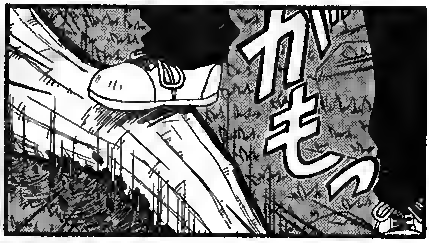
MAYBE I WANTED MASTER TASUKE...
...TO COME FIND ME.
YOU MUST NOT...
...GO TO HIM.
MISS SHAO!
HE IS UNDERGOING A CHALLENGE.

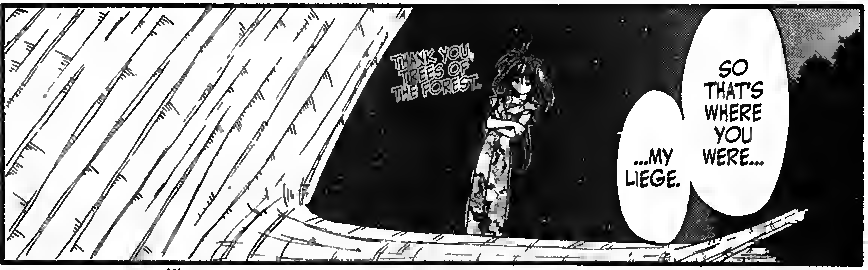
DO NOT WASTE MISS SHOUKO'S ...
... THOUGHT-FULNESS.
I SHALL GO...
...TO MY LIEGE.
MISS SHAO...
...YOU WAIT HERE.
THEN, THIS TIME...
YOU DID YOUR BEST LAST TIME, DID YOU NOT?
...IT IS MY LIEGE'S TURN...
...TO DO HIS BEST .

"I AM SURE THIS CHALLENGE SHALL BE SURMOUNTED. YOU NEED ONLY TO WAIT HERE."
"I AM CERTAIN MY LIEGE WILL COME GET YOU."

...THE SHITENRIN WITH HER, DOESN'T SHE?
...DOES HAVE...
HEY, RISHU.
SHAO ACTU-ALLY...
BOARD
PLUS, I WAS BOARDED UP INSIDE THE CABIN, RIGHT?
SHAO PROBABLY HELD THE DOOR SHUT.
BOARD
I'VE LOOKED THIS FAR AND HAVEN'T FOUND HER.
SO SHE MUST HAVE HAD HELP TO GET SO FAR AWAY.
SO IN CONCLU-SION...
OOF.
OOF.
BUT I DON'T THINK SHE COULD DO THAT HERSELF...

SHE DIDN'T REALLY...
BUT WHY...
...LEAVE THE SHITENRIN AT HOME.
THE SHITENRIN
...DID SHE SAY SHE FORGOT IT?
I FORGOT IT AT HOME!!
.....
SPIRITS OF THE EARTH...
...LEND ME YOUR STRENGTH!!





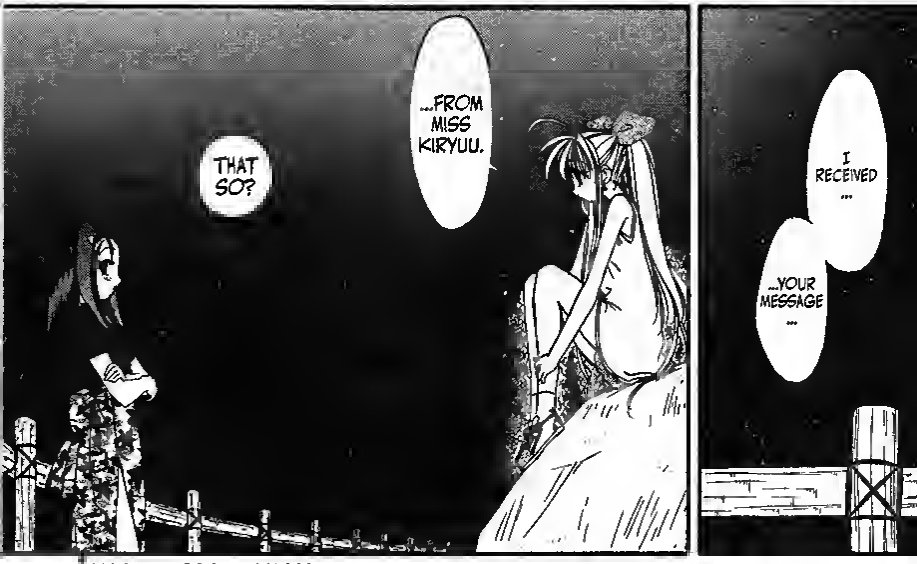
※ THE TREES OF THE FOREST GROW HUGE TO LOCATE THE PERSON KIRYUU IS LOOKING FOR!!

...AT THE...
...SUMMIT OF THE MOUNTAIN.
MISS SHAO IS...
MY LIEGE ...
...SHE AWAITS YOU.
THERE...

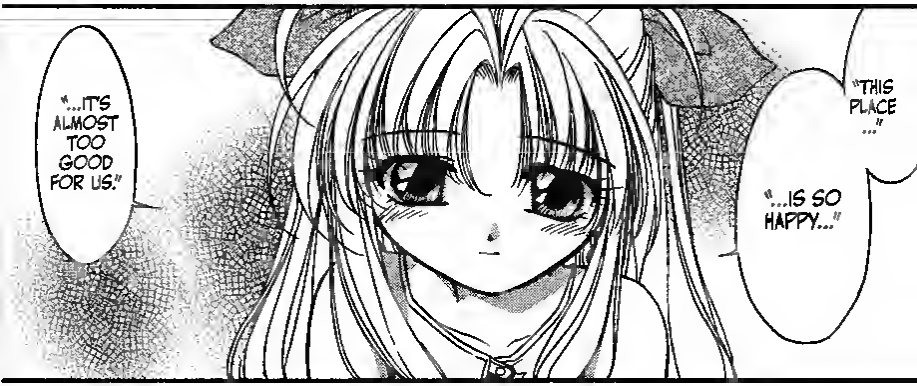
KIRYUU...
WHY DID SHAO...
...LIE AND SAY...
...SHE FORGOT THE SHITENRIN?
...ASKING ME?
ARE YOU SERI-OUSLY...

OF COURSE ...
...NOT. HEH.
"YOU KNOW, MISS SHAO..."
THANKS FOR TELLING ME WHERE TO FIND SHAO!!
ぴょーん

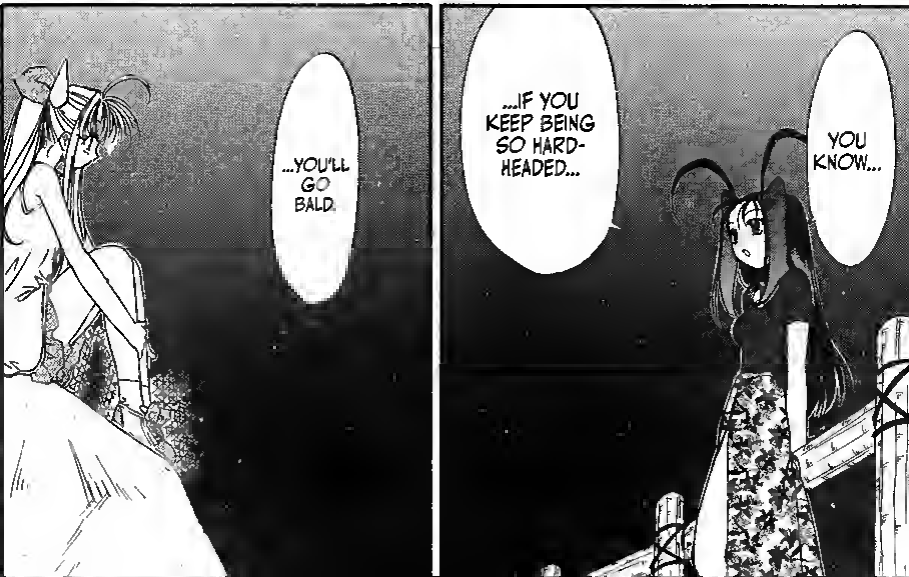
HMM?
"...I AM GLAD I MET MY LIEGE."
WHAT ARE YOU WEARING -?
MISS RUUAN.
REALLY!
I FINALLY FOUND YOU.
MASTER TAN'S WORRIED ABOUT YOU, Y'KNOW!

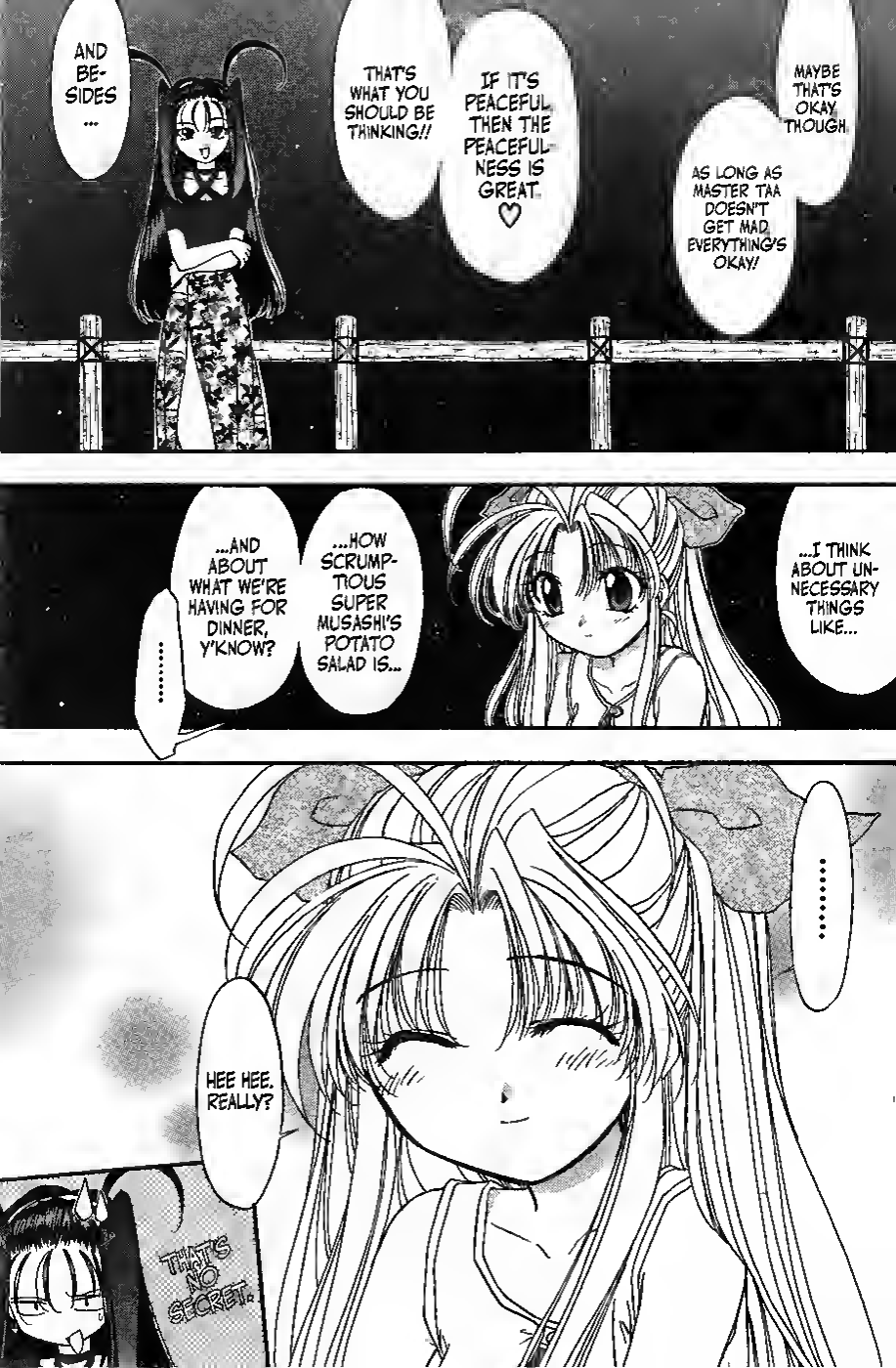


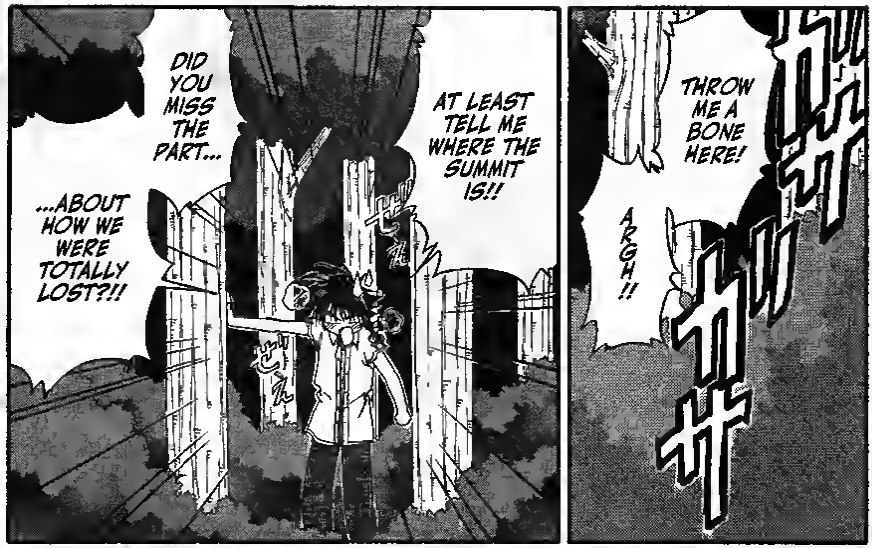
SHE'S KIND OF EMBARRASSED.



IN TIMES WHEN IT WAS NOT THIS PEACEFUL...
...I DIDN'T HAVE THE LUXURY OF THINKING...
...ABOUT ANYTHING OTHER THAN PROTECTING MY MASTER.
AND I'VE STARTED TO GET DISTRACTED, THINKING ABOUT UNNECESSARY THINGS.


...YOU'LL GO BALD.
...IF YOU KEEP BEING SO HARD-HEADED...
YOU KNOW...


MAYBE THAT'S OKAY, THOUGH.
AS LONG AS MASTER TAA DOESN'T GET MAD, EVERYTHING'S OKAY!
IF IT'S PEACEFUL, THEN THE PEACEFULNESS IS GREAT. ♡
THAT'S WHAT YOU SHOULD BE THINKING!!
AND BESIDES...
...I THINK ABOUT UNNECESSARY THINGS LIKE...
...HOW SCRUMPTIOUS SUPER MUSASHI'S POTATO SALAD IS...
...AND ABOUT WHAT WE'RE HAVING FOR DINNER, Y'KNOW?
.....
.....
HEE HEE. REALLY?
THAT'S NO SECRET!!



NO REASON TO BRAG ABOUT IT.

MASTER TASUKE!
I CAN HEAR HIS VOICE.
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?
I CAN'T HEAR IT.
ARE YOU DELU-SIONAL?
RISHU...
...TOLD ME!
USEFUL LITTLE LAWN GNOME, ISN'T SHE?
WHAT?!!

MASTER TASUKE...
RISHU!
WHEN I SEE SHAO...
...I'M GOING TO TELL HER THAT I...
WHAT DID YOU WANT TO SAY?
I DON'T KNOW IF...
...SHE'LL UNDERSTAND, BUT...
WHAT...
HUFF!
SO... HUFF... TIRED..
IS THAT WHY...
WHAT ARE YOU TRYING TO TELL ME?
...YOU WANTED US TO COME HERE TOGETHER?

SHAO...!

SHAO!!
MASTER TASUKE!!
SIGH...
I FAILED ...
...AS KEIKOU-NITTEN!

MASTER TASUKE !!
ARRRGH! RUUAN!
SHA... O...
YES.....?

I...
SHAO, I...

MASTER TASUKE...
THE BRIGHTNESS OF SHAO'S SMILE WHICH I HADN'T SEEN IN SO LONG...
...WAS SO BLINDING...
OH NOOO! MASTER TA... YOU ARE ALL RIIIGHT?!
MISS RUAN YOU'RE HORRIBLE!
SHUT UP!! MASTER TA IS MINE!
...THAT AS MY CONSCIOUSNESS FADED...

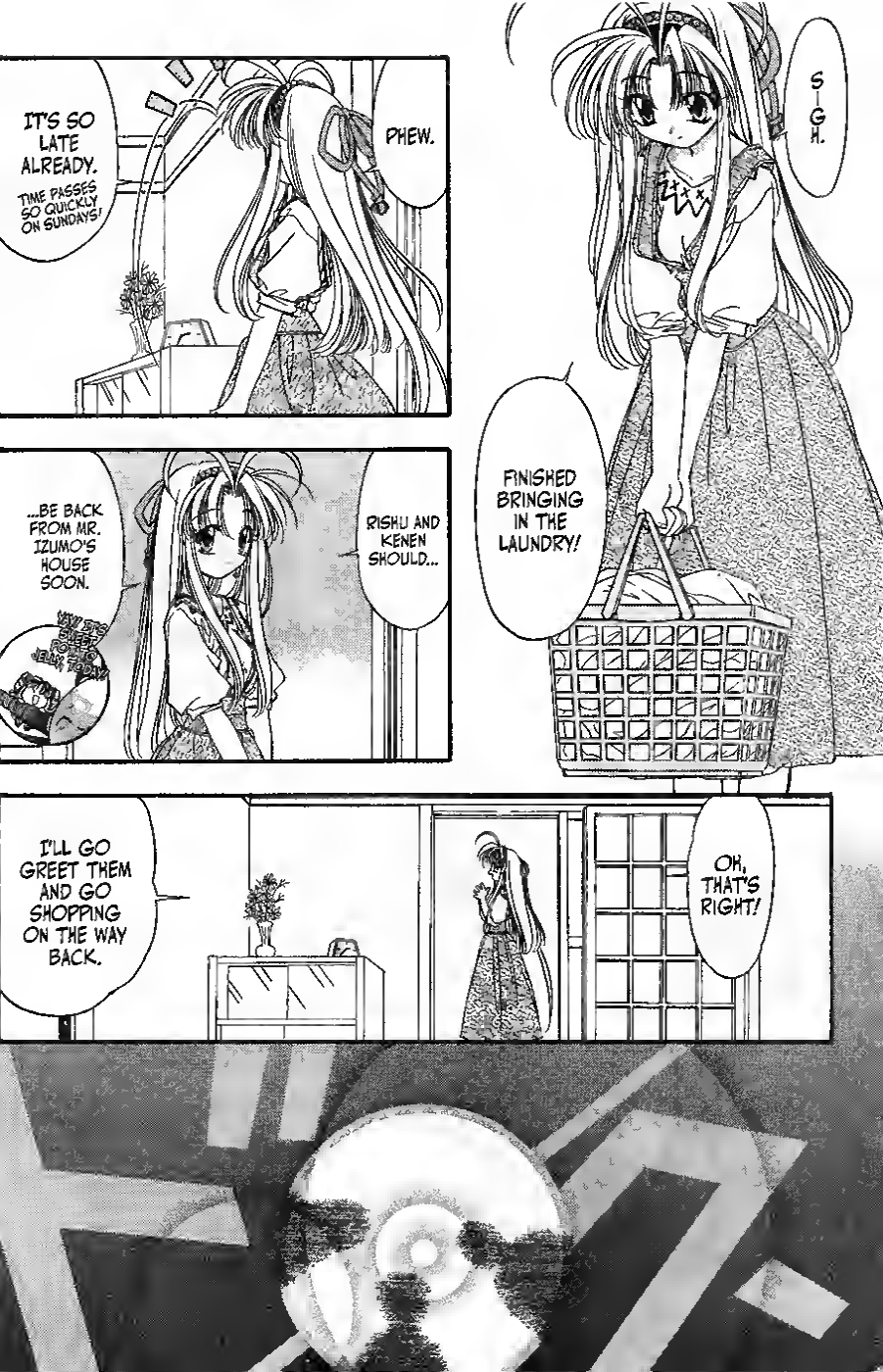
YES!
AT LEAST I THINK I DID.
SHAO.
...I CONFESSED MY FEELINGS.
DID I SAY SOMETHING BEFORE I PASSED OUT ON THE SUMMIT?
HEH HEH.
UH... UMM...
I'M THE AMAZING TASUKE SHICHIRI!!
I KNEW IT! I KNEW I SAID IT!
WELL, SHAO'S HAPPY.
YES. ♡

WHAT ?!!
"SHAO, I AM..."
"...GLAD THAT YOU LIED!" THAT'S WHAT YOU SAID!
I'M SO HAPPY YOU WEREN'T ANGRY MASTER
WHY DIDN'T I TELL HER EVERYTHING?!!
WHY?!!
I'M SO STUPID! STUPID!!
じょ
GASP!
BY THE BY, WAS MR. KOICHIROU ALL RIGHT, MISS RUUAN?

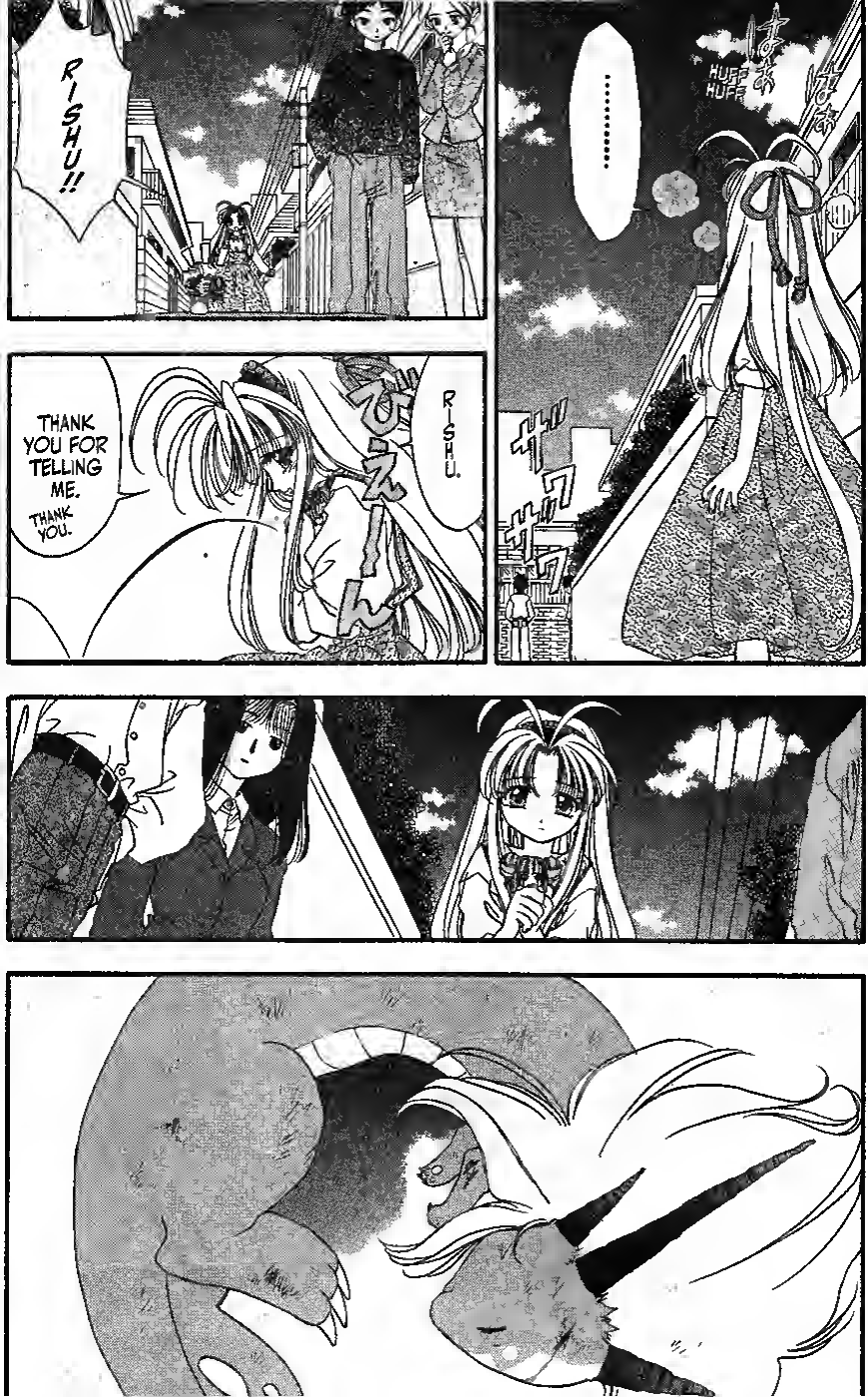
...WHAT A PEACE-FUL AGE WE HAVE DIS-COVERED.
IT'S LIKE AT THE END OF A LONG...
THE SHAO FROM THE PAST..
...LOOKS AT ME NOW AND THINKS..
...AND DIFFI CULT JOUR NEY...
...WHEN YOU FINALLY GET TO HAVE...
...A BRIEF MOMENT OF REST.

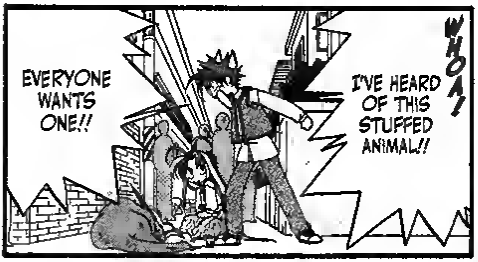
THANK YOU FOR CHEERING ME ON. ♡
1ST PLACE: SHAO
5,312 VOTES
3RD PLACE: RISHU
1,025 VOTES
RISHU'S HAPPY. ♡
ANNOUNCING THE RESULTS FOR THE CHARACTER POPULARITY CONTEST!! (HELD IN JAPAN)
I PLACED SECOND?
2ND PLACE: KIRYUU
1,451 VOTES
CHAPTER 50
ETERNAL GOOD FORTUNE

16TH HOKUTO SHICHISEI
17TH NANA
18TH DEVIL RUUAN
19TH ANGEL RUUAN
20TH MEIHOA
14TH PLACE TAROUSUKE 50 VOTES
15TH PLACE: KOICHIROU 47 VOTES
13TH PLACE KENEN 58 VOTES
12TH PLACE: KOKA 71 VOTES
11TH PLACE URINGUN 76 VOTES
IS IT OKAY TO BE AT THE TOP LIKE THIS...?
10TH PLACE: KOHON 90 VOTES
NEXT TO MASTER TAA.
5TH PLACE: TASUKE 304 VOTES
8TH PLACE TAKASHI 101 VOTES
9TH PLACE: IZUMO 102 VOTES
4TH PLACE: SHOUKO 498 VOTES
6TH PLACE: RUUAN 214 VOTES
7TH PLACE: KAORI 113 VOTES

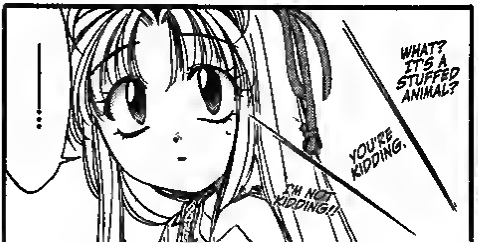

S-I-G-H.
FINISHED BRINGING IN THE LAUNDRY!
RISHU AND KENEN SHOULD...
...BE BACK FROM MR. IZUMO'S HOUSE SOON.
HOW BIG SHOULD I MAKE THE JELLY FOOD?
PHEW.
IT'S SO LATE ALREADY.
TIME PASSES SO QUICKLY ON SUNDAYS!
OH, THAT'S RIGHT!
I'LL GO GREET THEM AND GO SHOPPING ON THE WAY BACK.

SHAO...
WHAT...?
RISHU?!
WHERE'RE YOU GOING, SHAO?
HUH?
.....?
バタン

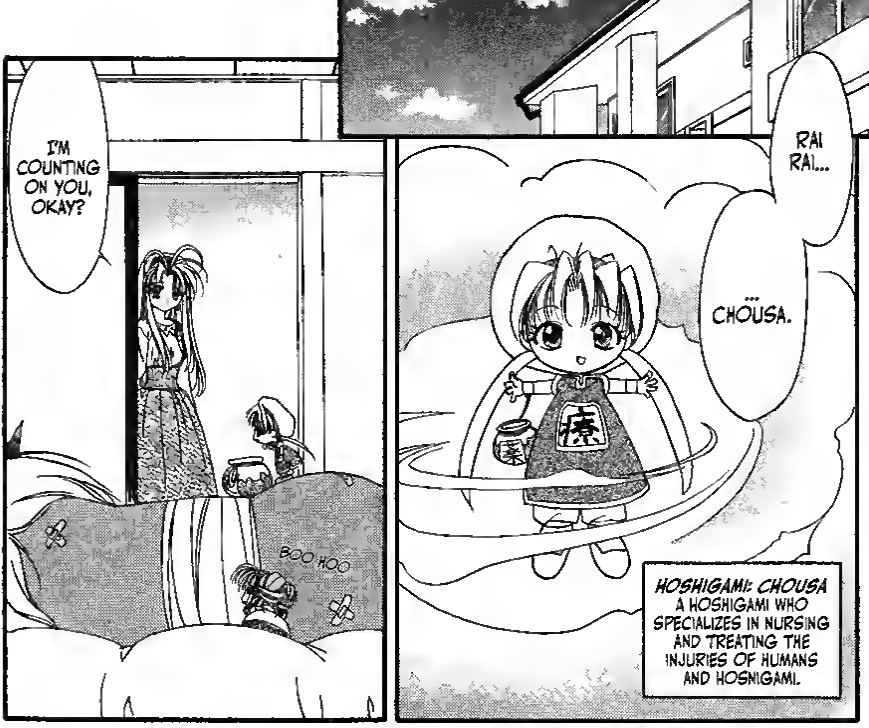

RISHU!!
HUFF HUFF
.....
RISHU.
ぴえーん
THANK YOU FOR TELLING ME.
THANK YOU.

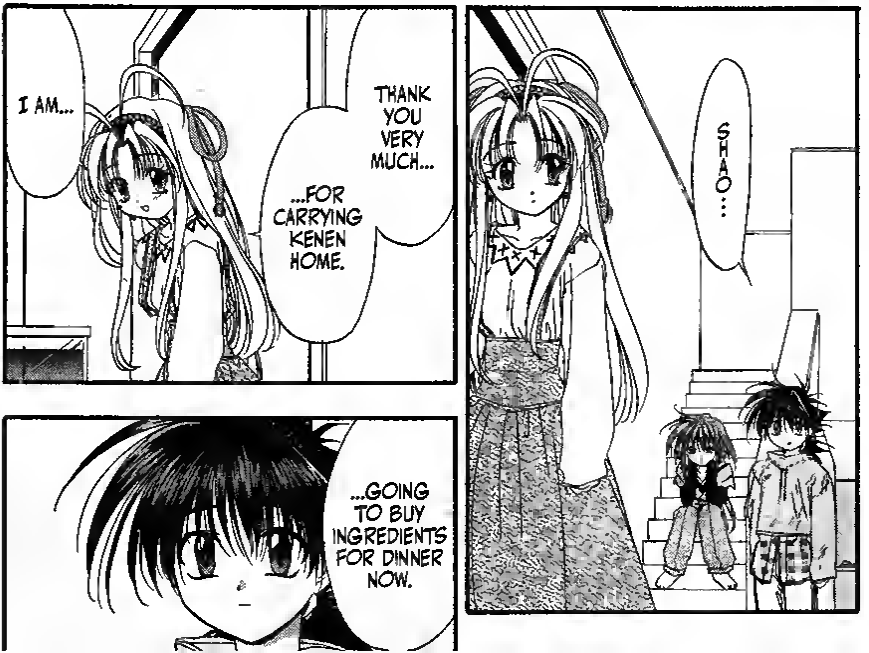


EVERYONE WANTS ONE?



MASTER TASUKE.
THIS ISN'T GOOD.
WE HAVE TO DO SOME-THING FAST...
I'LL CARRY KENEN HOME.
I SWEAR ON MY SOUL I'M NOT LYING!!
YOU'RE LYING THROUGH YOUR TEETH. YOU'RE A HORRIBLE LIAR!
SHAO, MAKE SURE KENEN DOESN'T FALL, OKAY?
Y-YES.
LIPSY DAISY.
.....
THAT'S WHY I SAID IT'S THE ONE EVERYONE WANTS!!
THE WHAT EVERYONE WANTS?!!


I'M COUNTING ON YOU, OKAY?
BOO HOO
RAI RAI...
...CHOUSA.
HOSHIGAMI: CHOUSA
A HOSHIGAMI WHO SPECIALIZES IN NURSING AND TREATING THE INJURIES OF HUMANS AND HOSHIGAMI.


I AM...
THANK YOU VERY MUCH...
...FOR CARRYING KENEN HOME.
SHAO...
...GOING TO BUY INGREDIENTS FOR DINNER NOW.

EVERYONE GETS HURT ONCE IN A WHILE.
IT'S ALL RIGHT.
YOU SHOULD STAY WITH KENEN.
I'LL GO SHOPPING, SHAO.
.....
...MORE UPSET, DID YOU NOT?
YOU THOUGHT SHE WOULD BE...
...MY LIEGE.
YOU ARE SURPRISED...

HMM...
MEDICINE
WILL THIS WORK FOR INJURIES?
SOFT-SHELLED TURTLE EXTRACT...
HEY.
DID SOMEONE GET HURT OR SOMETHING?
MISS SHAO...
...WILL NOT GET UPSET OVER SOMETHING LIKE THIS.
AFTER ALL, SHE IS A SHUGO-GETTEN.

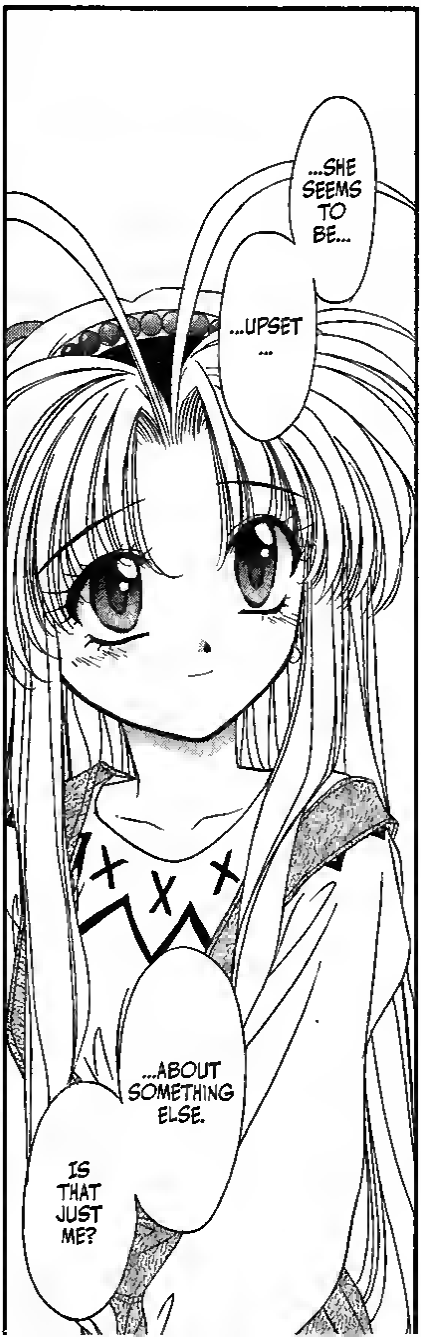
MEDICINE
MISS SHAORIN.
...AND PAY YOU A VISIT.
I WAS ABOUT TO BRING MY MOTHER'S SPECIAL JELLY...
BUT WHAT PERFECT TIMING.
THAT MUST ...
...HAVE BEEN TERRIBLE.
I'M SURE A COUPLE MORE OF MY MOTHER'S TREATS WILL MAKE KENEN FEEL BETTER.
AFTER ALL, KENEN HAD JUST LOVED THESE AT MY HOUSE.
MOTHER-!

I'M FINE.
YOU'RE NOT FEELING WELL YOURSELF, ARE YOU, MISS SHAORIN?
.....
ぼけ
WHY...
MISS SHAORIN, YOU HAVE TO LOOK AFTER YOURSELF AS WELL!
...ARE YOU...
...SO NICE TO ME?

SHICHIRI
YO, SHAO!
SHAO♡
TAKUSEEE SHAOSE BACK!
...
EVERYONE CAME OVER TO CHECK ON KENEN.
SO I LET THEM IN THE ROOM.
SORRY...
THE ME FROM THE PAST...
THAT'S FINE.
OH.

...FINDS IT ODD...
...THAT IN THIS TIME...
...PEOPLE ARE SO CONCERNED ABOUT US.
WE ARE NOT...
...ACCUSTOMED TO PEOPLE WORRYING ABOUT OUR WELFARE.

I JUST HAPPENED TO PASS BY AND...
...THOSE RUBBER-NECKERS WERE LIKE...
WHATEVER COULD THIS BE?
WHAT IS THIS?
THEIR CURIOUS EYES DEVOURING THE SCENE.
...AND...
...THAT'S HOW IT HAP-PENED.
YEAH! YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO DO SOMETHING NICE BECAUSE YOU WANT TO, NOT SO YOU CAN BRAG ABOUT IT.
IF YOU DIDN'T BRAG ABOUT IT, YOU WOULD BE COOL.
I WENT OUT OF MY WAY TO PROTECT KENEN!
SHE ACTS LIKE SHE ISN'T UPSET ABOUT KENEN, BUT...
YES, YOU ARE!!
I'M NOT BRAGGING!!
HE SPEAKS THE TRUTH.
HEY, KIRYUU.

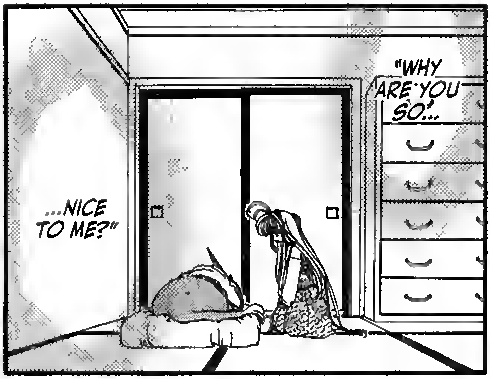

...SHE SEEMS TO BE...
...UPSET...
...ABOUT SOMETHING ELSE.
IS THAT JUST ME?

IT'S NOT BRAGGING!! I TOLD YOU THAT, DIDN'T I?!!!
THAT'S WHY!!
M-MISS RUUAN!
YO, I THINK HE'S STRANGLING HIM.

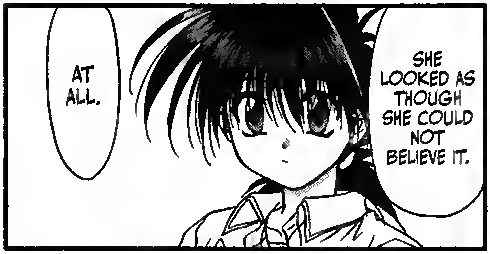
KENEN WOKE UP!!
OH!
WHAT?!!

OH, IT'S NOISY!!
IT'S NOISY, YOU KNOW
IT'S SO NOISY.
HIS EYES ARE EMANATING AN "IT'S NOISY" AURA.
OH, IT'S SO NOISY
I DON'T BLAME KENEN...

BUT THAT'S ...
YOU AREN'T IN THE WAY.
I'M SORRY, SHAO.
IT LOOKS LIKE ALL WE DID WAS GET IN THE WAY.
TAKASHI WAS THE ONLY ONE WHO DIDN'T GET IN THE WAY
しょぼ!
YOU AREN'T IN THE WAY AT ALL!
PLEASE COME VISIT AGAIN.
I THINK IT WOULD MAKE KENEN HAPPY TO SEE YOU ALL.
TASUKE, DO YOU HAVE A MOMENT?
HUH...?
.....


"WHY ARE YOU SO...
...NICE TO ME?"

...I SEE.
SO SHAO ASKED YOU THAT, HUH?


SHE LOOKED AS THOUGH SHE COULD NOT BELIEVE IT.
AT ALL.

THANK YOU.
I SEE.

THAT'S ALL. IT BOTHERED ME A LITTLE, SO...
EXCUSE ME

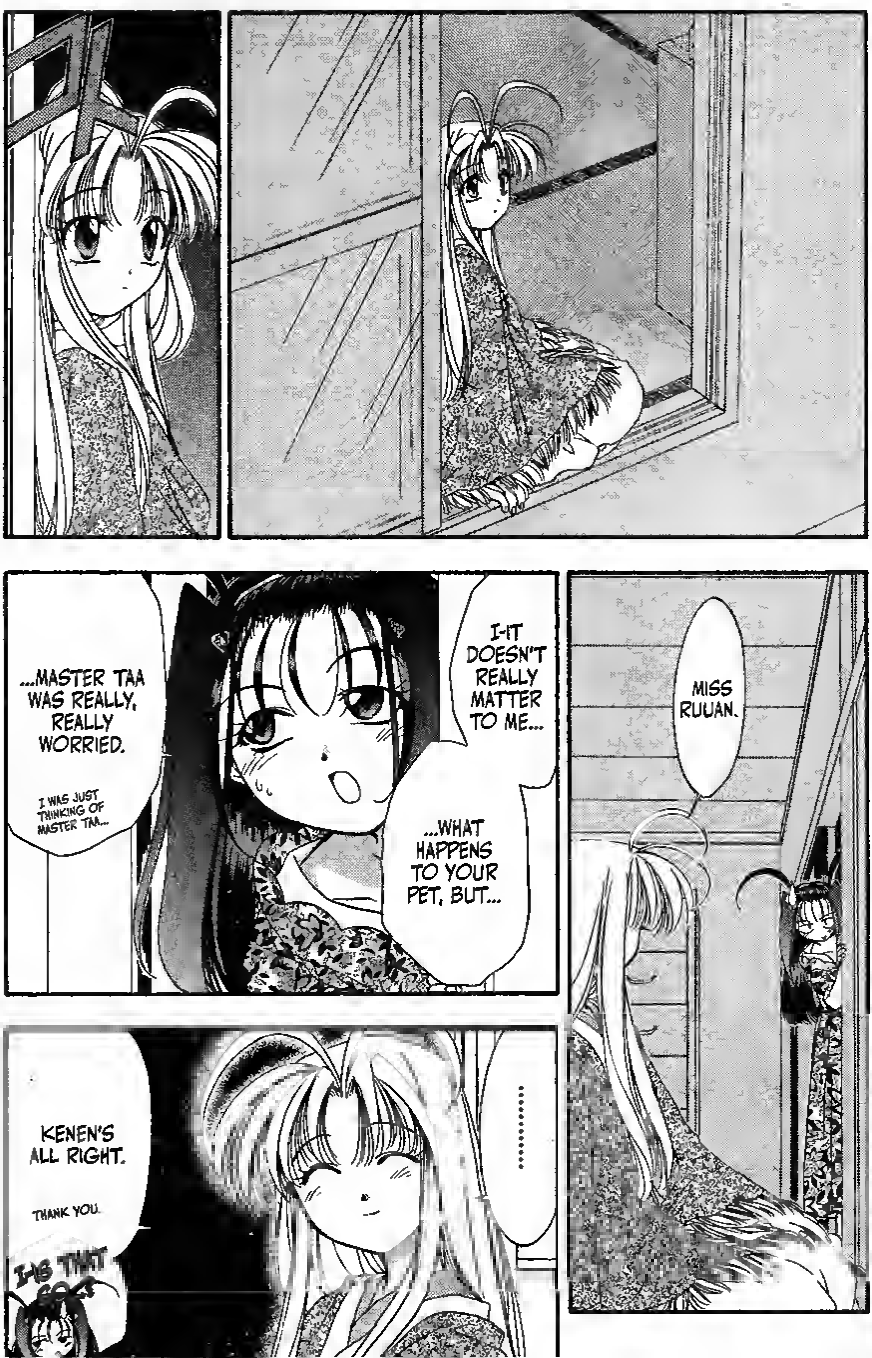
SAY, KENEN ...
TO-DAY...
...WAS A SURPRISE, WASN'T IT?
BUT...
...IT WAS NICE TOO, DON'T YOU THINK?
PLEASE GET WELL ...
...SOON.
WE HAVE TO THANK EVERYONE.
OKAY?

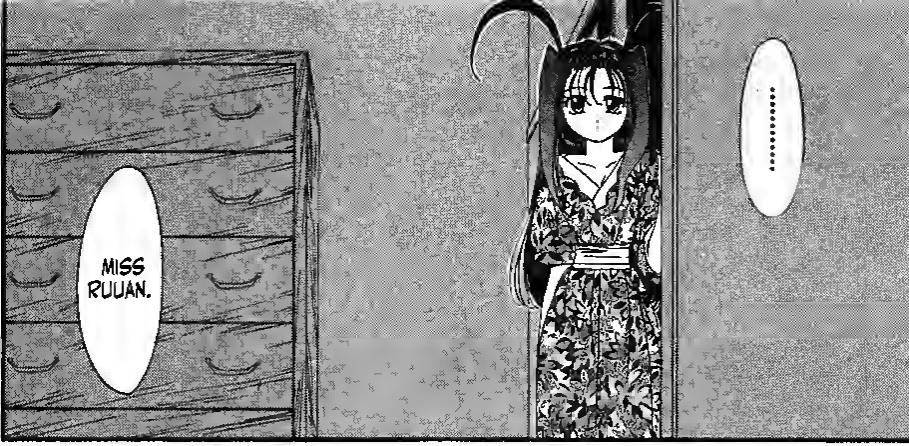
!!!
MASTER TASUKE.
FWOOMF
WE DON'T WANT HIM TO CATCH A COLD...
...ON TOP OF BEING HURT.
.....
THIS IS...

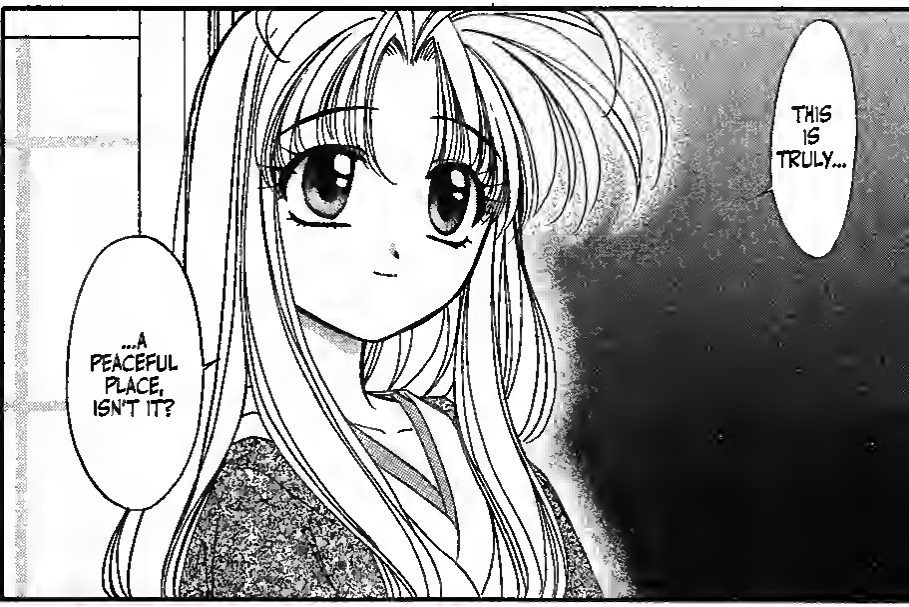
...SUCH A STRANGE AND PE..CEFUL PLACE.
I DON'T UNDERSTAND IT...BUT...
...DOES EVERYONE TREAT US SO KINDLY?
WHY!..
SHAO.

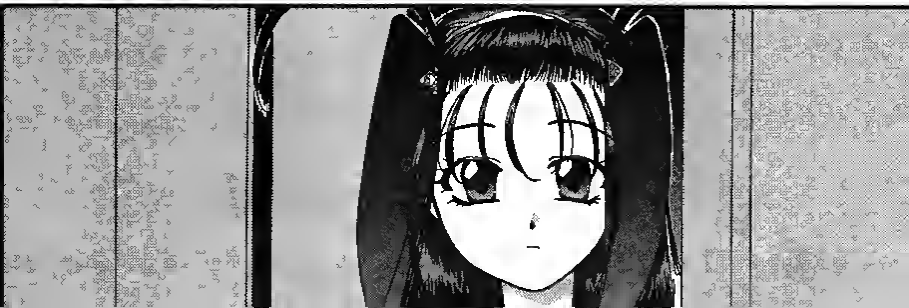
...KENEN IS OUR FRIEND TOO.
THAT'S WHY HE CALLED EVERYONE OVER TO VISIT.
EAR-LIER ...
...TAKASHI SAID...
.....
AND TO ME...

WE WANT YOU TO...
...HURRY UP AND GET WELL...
...KENEN.
...KENEN IS...
...A PART OF THE FAMILY.


I-IT DOESN'T REALLY MATTER TO ME...
...WHAT HAPPENS TO YOUR PET, BUT...
...MASTER TAA WAS REALLY, REALLY WORRIED.
I WAS JUST THINKING OF MASTER TAA...
MISS RUUAN.
.....
KENEN'S ALL RIGHT.
THANK YOU.
I'LL BE THAT


MISS RUUAN.
.....


...A PEACEFUL PLACE, ISN'T IT?
THIS IS TRULY...



KENEN WAS...
...ONLY HURT A LITTLE...
...BUT SO MANY PEOPLE WERE WORRIED ABOUT HIM.
THERE ARE EVEN PEOPLE ...
...WHO UNDER-STAND HOW I FEEL.
THIS IS...
...TRULY...

...TRULY A HAPPY PLACE.
IT'S SO HAPPY IT MAKES ME CRY.
A LONG TIME AGO, I PRAYED FOR...

OOH!!
KENEN!!
WELCOME BACK, BUD!!
I'M SO HAPPY YOU'RE OKAY!!
...WHAT? ARE YOU DOING?
...A PEACEFUL AGE, AND A HAPPY PLACE FOR US.
TAKASHI! YOU'RE SQUEEZING TOO HARD!
WHOOPS! SORRY!
FOR A BRIEF MOMENT OF...
...REST.
BUT ...
...NOW I PRAY THAT...
...THIS MOMENT WON'T BE TOO BRIEF.

AND THAT THIS HAPPINESS...
...WILL CONTINUE FOREVER.